1935 Hudson, NY, Sesquicentennial Half Dollar

Mintage of 10,008, 8 coins reserved for assay. Designed by Chester Beach and distributed by the Hudson Sesquicentennial Committee (Tristram Coffin, general chairman) through the First National Bank & Trust Company of Hudson, New York (John R. Evans represented the Committee in correspondence). Image courtesy of Heritage Auctions.

Approved by Congress on May 2, 1935 and issued in commemoration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the City of Hudson, New York.

Design:

Obverse: Neptune holding trident, riding on a spouting whale; in background a mermaid; around upper border, CITY OF HUDSON, N.Y.; on scroll surrounding chief design, ET DECUS E PRETIUM RECTI (both the ornament and the reward of virtue); between waves and lower border, E PLURIBUS UNUM, 1785-1935.

Reverse: Ship sailing homeward bound to right; in field a crescent moon; around upper border, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; in smaller letters, IN GOD WE TRUST; below ship, HUDSON; around lower border, HALF DOLLAR; Designers initials C.B. in monogram in lower left field.

"A bill was introduced in the House of Representatives by Senator Copeland, of New York, on March 11, 1934, authorizing the coinage of 6,000 half dollars to commemorate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the City of Hudson, N. Y. The same bill was also introduced in the Senate. The report of the Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures of the House recommended favorable action with an amendment making the issue 10,000 instead of 6,000. The bill was signed by the President on April 19."[1]

"A Regular Meeting of the Common Council (of Hudson) was held Friday, March 31, 1935 at 8:00 P. M. There were present: President Marshall, Alderman Hallenbeck, Cartwright, Crouse, Solomon, Thorn, and Weinman.

On motion of Alderman Cartwright, seconded by Alderman Weinman, the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was ordered dispensed with.

The Clerk presented and read the following communication from His Honor Mayor Wise:

[1] ***The Numismatist*, More Commemorative Coins Proposed, May, 1935, p. 300.**

May 31, 1935

The Honorable, the Common Council
City of Hudson, New York

Gentlemen:

In connection with the attached invoice voucher in the amount of $1,000.00, I believe that some explanation is due. As you know as part of the Sesqui-Centennial program we have considered the coinage of a commemorative half dollar which was authorized by Congress and the bill was signed by the President. In order to obtain the full approval for this coinage it is mandatory that we obtain a design which would meet the approval of the Director of the Mint, Secretary of the Treasury and the Commission of Fine Arts. The Commission also recommended a recognized sculptor whose design would be acceptable to the Commission. From this list was picked the name of Chester Beach, who has since fulfilled and designed the model which has been acceptable to the Commission of Fine Arts. The price of $1,000 is set by Congressional agreement. In as much as Mr. Beach has fulfilled his part of the agreement, I am asking that this invoice be approved in order that he may obtain his fee.

You will recall that in the 1935-36 budget there was set up in this budget the amount of $1,200.00 for this celebration, this item of $1,000.00 should be charged against the $1,200.00 as set up in the budget.

This coinage which calls for the issuing of 10,000 one-half dollars will be sold by us at a cost of $1.00 each. We believe that we will be able to raise approximately $3,000.00 over and above all expenses which might be incurred in connection with this commemorative coin.

I would also ask that you authorize me to use the additional $200.00 remaining in the Sesqui Fund as set up in the budget. This additional $200.00 would be used for the Government minting charge.

Very truly yours,

Frank W. Wise,
Mayor

On motion of Alderman Weinman, seconded by Alderman Cartwright, this was received, placed on file, and the Mayor's recommendations followed by the following vote:

Ayes—President Marshall, Aldermen Hallenbeck, Cartwright, Crouse, Miller, Soloman, Thorn, Weinman.

Nays—0"[2]

"**. . .** Meeting of May 31, 1935; on motion of Alderman Soloman, seconded by Alderman Weinman, the following bills were audited and ordered paid: Chester Beach - $1,000.00."[3]

"**To the Acting Director of the Mint Mary O'Reilly from the Vice President of the First National Bank of Hudson John Evans on June 12, 1935, regarding delivery of the Hudson, New York, Sesquicentennial Half Dollar.**

The Mayor of the City of Hudson, Hon. Frank W. Wise, has informed me that he authorized you to send the coins being minted in commemoration of the founding of the City of Hudson, N.Y., to this bank. It is the desire of the Mayor that 6,000 be minted at this time and that 4,000 be minted at a later date if the demand warrants it. We hereby authorize you to deliver these coins to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and enclose herewith copy of our letter to them authorizing payment of the face value and minting charges. If anything is necessary will you kindly communicate with me?"[4]

[2] ***Proceedings of the Common Council of the City of Hudson*. Published by Order of the Common Council, The Hudson Press, Hudson, N. Y., May 31st, 1935, p. 54-55.**

[3] ***Proceedings of the Common Council of the City of Hudson*, 1934-1935. Published by Order of the Common Council, The Hudson Press, Hudson, N. Y., May 31, 1935, p. 72.**

[4] ***The Authoritative Reference on Commemorative Coins 1892-1954*. Kevin Flynn, Published by Kyle Vick, 2008, p. 282-283.**

CITY OF HUDSON
HUDSON, N.Y.

FRANK W. WISE
MAYOR

May 14, 1935.

Mr. Chester Beach
207 East 17th Street
New York City.

My dear Mr. Beach:-

This is to confirm our verbal agreement of yesterday afternoon at your studio whereby you consented to sculpture the design for the City of Hudson commemorative half dollar. The cost of the design to aggregate a sum of one thousand dollars ($1,000.).

It is my understanding that you will also assist us in presenting this design to the proper authorities for immediate approval. I greatly appreciate your offer of assistance in having the design approved as I stated to you the time limit is a vital factor to my sesquicentennial committee.

I have also discussed with my executive committee your recommendation as to the head or bust of Henry Hudson. We are perfectly willing to accept your advice on this matter and revert to our original idea of placing the Half Moon on the side of the coin in place of the head as intended.

I will stop in your studio some time Monday next to discuss the coin design with you.

Very truly yours,

Frank W. Wise

FRANK W. WISE,
Mayor

FWW:MEM

City of Hudson letter to Chester Beach confirming his acceptance to design and model the Hudson half dollar. Courtesy of Stacks Bowers Galleries.

"**. . .** (Chester) Beach made a number of preliminary drawings which are shown on the following plate. Working around an embossed Hudson seal at the top left, he sketched his layout for the reverse. The seal itself is scarcely visible in reproduction, but the legends are easily discerned. Below this, the artist prepared a tentative obverse, featuring Hudson's portrait. To the right, he added two detailed renderings, on a substitute obverse showing the explorer's flagship, the 'Half Moon.' Beach showed his drawings to Wise on May 13, and the following day the Mayor confirmed arrangements:

My dear Mr. Beach: This is to confirm our verbal agreement of yesterday afternoon at your studio whereby you consented to sculpture the design for the City of Hudson commemorative half dollar. The cost of the design to aggregate a sum of one thousand dollars ($1,000).

It is my understanding that you will also assist us in presenting this design to the proper authorities for immediate approval. I greatly appreciate your offer of assistance in having the design approved as I stated to you the time limit is a vital factor to my sesquicentennial committee.

I have also discussed with my executive committee your recommendation as to the head or bust of Henry Hudson. We are perfectly willing to accept your advice on this matter and revert to our original idea of placing the Half Moon on the side of the coin in place of the dead as intended.

I will stop in your studio some time Monday next to discuss the coin design with you. Very truly yours.

Working with unusual dispatch, Beach completed his models in little over a week's time. The designs closely follow his final sketches although the word 'Hudson' has replaced 'Half Moon,' and an actual crescent moon now appears to the left of the ship. To expedite the issue, the Medallic Art Company of New York was engaged to make hubs.

Dear Mr. Weil (Medallic Art Company): I had heard that there was to be a special commemorative half dollar for Hudson County but did not know what sculptor was making the models, or when they were to be issued. I have not seen the act of Congress authorizing this piece and so do not know just how it may be worked. Ordinarily, the act designates that the design is subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, as well as the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts, which has no doubt already been obtained for this coin.

I am well acquainted with the work of Mr. Beach as he has executed several coins before, and has had a great deal of experience with this type of work. Also, I recall that the dies made from his models for coins before were more than usually successful when it came to striking coins from them. As you know, with certain issues we have run into considerable difficulty in producing good sharp coins, because the sculptor was not familiar with the very rigid requirements of modern coinage processes. I have no apprehension on this score with Mr. Beach's models. Yet the requirements of the act of Congress cannot be ignored as it would only cause serious delay later on.

A good margin in height of border is advisable, as a coin has a tendency to spring after release from the collar, throwing some part of the design above the border, although the design is below the border in the die. I have seen this happen a number of times where there was not sufficient allowance provided in the die.

If you mean by polished field on the coin, the type of the old style U. S. coins or that of the present British coins and those of several other foreign countries, then this polish must be obtained by what we call 'basining' on a zinc curved plate, which revolves rapidly. We do this right along for certain foreign coinages. If the field is simply to be polished by hand on the hardened die, that is quite another matter. The former process gives a much more brilliant finish than could possibly be obtained by the latter method. But to produce satisfactory dies for the basining process would require considerable adjustments in relief by taking the work back and forth between hub and die, because the basin is a severely accurate curve, graduated from a radius as low as 13" to 90". For this we always lower the field of the hubs considerably below the design and then this excess is taken off the die partly before it is hardened, and the final amount after hardening, when the brilliant finish is obtained by various powders.

I would advise against depending upon one pair of dies, although the coinage is small. A die can be damaged too easily in the experimental work necessary in determining the size to cut the planchet and the shape and depth of milling. Before we start coining, we find it necessary with a new design to cut five or six planchets all with slightly different diameters, and milled as nearly as we can guess from the character of the design. These are then tried-out on the coining press. Often we have to cut a number of additional planchets changing the diameters until we get one that makes a perfect piece.

Therefore, extra dies for this purpose are always necessary. One or two 1/1000ths of an inch in diameter of a planchet can make the difference between success and failure in the coining of a piece. All these problems must be solved before the ingots can be rolled, because they determine the thickness to which the ingot is to be rolled. The weight of the coin has to be held rigidly within a narrow limit.

I will give a report on the models just as soon as they are received, and will co-operate in any way that I can to expedite matters. Very sincerely yours.

Writing to Moore (Commission of Fine Arts) on the 27th, Beach enthusiastically reported Lawrie's approval of the models:

Dear Mr. Moore: I enclose a photo for your interest and the Commission of Fine Arts' records of the Hudson Half Dollar models.

Mr. Lawrie came in Friday and kindly left me an approved, 'heartily.'

I hope they will be a little more interesting than the others I have done, as the seal of Hudson is rather amusing and the Half-moon that I persuaded them to use instead of a non existing portrait of Hudson will make a rich obverse besides being more in keeping with the reverse (Hudson it seems was a whaling port along the Hudson River).

I quote for your record not boastfully as it is mere technique-from the head engraver John Sinnock to Medallic Art Co. here who will cut the dies. We are however sending him a set of plaster models to look over to be sure. Quote-'The dies made from Mr. Beach's models for coins before were more than usually successful when it came to striking coins from them.'

We are also enclosing to the mint one of these photo(s) for them to secure the approval of the Secty. of the Treasury after they look over the models. I thought this the best way, but maybe you would like to send him word also. I do not know the exact method, as you will recall all the other orders came through the Fine Arts Commission and I did not have much to do about O.K.'s. All is in a hurry. I have modeled these in no less than two weeks. Sincerely yours.

Relying on Lawrie's verdict, the Commission approved the models the following day. A week later they were authorized for coinage."[5]

Seal of the City of Hudson, NY. Courtesy of *Don Taxay*, p. 163.

[5] ***An Illustrated History of Commemorative Coinage*, Don Taxay ARCO Press, New York City, 1967, p. 161, 162, 165-166.**

First sketches of the Hudson half dollar by Chester Beach. ***Don Taxay*****, p. 163.**

Adopted models by Chester Beach. Don Taxay p. 164.

Sesquicentennial City of Hudson, N.Y.

Third Oldest City in State

1785-1935

Tristram Coffin, General Chairman

It is expected that half dollars in commemoration of the Hudson Sesquicentennial will be ready for distribution sometime in June. The Bill authorizing this issue has been passed by the House of Representatives and U.S. Senate, and was signed by the President on May 5, 1935. The Bill calls for an issue not to exceed 10,000 pieces, and the distribution will be made by the Committee, of which the writer is a member.

The coins will be distributed and offered to the public at $1.00 each, the premium to defray the expense of coinage. We have had requests from all parts of the country and can accept only cash, bank drafts or money order in payment for them.

If it is necessary for us to send the coins by mail there will be an extra expense of 18¢ covering the cost of registration, and 3¢ postage for each two coins.

Very truly ~~yours~~,

John R. Evans

FOR THE COMMITTEE.

Address Reply to:
JOHN R. EVANS, Executive Committee
c/o The First National Bank and Trust Co.
Hudson, N.Y.

Increased To 40 on 7/3/35 - but did not send money

Receipt is acknowledged of your check for $20.50

Executive Committee

MAYOR FRANK W. WIEE, *Hon. Chairman*

A. A. ELLIOTT, *Vice Chairman* ARTHUR F. McEVOY, *Secretary* S. MITCHELL RAINEY, *Treasurer*

Mrs. O. H. Bradley	*Frank L. Kent*	*Mark Rosenthal*	*Craig Thorn, Jr.*
M. J. Degnan	*William E. Kline*	*Louis Rotz*	*John C. Tracy*
Pierre Delan	*James Marshall*	*Louis Sacco*	*J. McClure Wardle*
John R. Evans	*H. Parker Miller*	*Milton V. Saulpaugh*	*Elmer J. West, Jr.*
Dr. H. C. Galster	*Mrs. Wendover Neefus*	*Montgomery C. Smith*	*William Wortman*
Henry M. James	*Howard E. Rainey*	*Rev. Charles B. Thompson*	

Hudson half dollar Distribution Letter. The files of Walter P. Nichols contain extensive correspondence from virtually every issuer of commemorative half dollars in the 1930s. The above is simply a notice concerning the Hudson sesquicentennial half dollar scheduled for distribution in June 1935. The marginal note indicates that Nichols ordered ten pieces, remitting $10.33 for them. Courtesy of *An Inside View of the Coin Hobby in the 1930s*, Edited by Q. David Bowers, Bowers and Merena Galleries, Inc., p. 50. A book in my Numismatic Library.

Sesquicentennial *City of Hudson, N.Y.*

Third Oldest City in State

1785-1935

Tristram Coffin, General Chairman

July 6, 1935.

L. W. Hoffecker
1514 Montana Street
El Paso, Texas

Dear Sir:

Shipment of coins was made on July 5th and the demand was so great that our entire 10,000 has been exhausted. The Bill authorized only 10,000 so there will be no more available except through dealers who purchased them. No limit was placed on orders.

We regret that we are unable to supply an additional amount.

Yours very truly,

John R. Evans

FOR THE COMMITTEE

ADDRESS REPLY TO

John R. Evans, Executive Committee
The First National Bank and Trust Company
Hudson, N. Y.

Executive Committee

MAYOR FRANK W. WIEK, *Hon. Chairman*

A. A. ELLIOTT, *Vice Chairman* ARTHUR F. McEVOY, *Secretary* S. MITCHELL RAINEY, *Treasurer*

Mrs. O. H. Bradley	*Frank L. Kent*	*Mark Rosenthal*	*Craig Thorn, Jr.*
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Dr. H. C. Galster	*Mrs. Wendover Neefus*	*Montgomery C. Smith*	*William Wortman*
Henry M. James	*Howard E. Rainey*	*Rev. Charles B. Thompson*	

Above is shown a letter dated July 6, 1935, from John R. Evans, representing the Hudson Sesquicentennial celebration, advising L. W. Hoffecker that all 10,000 coins had been sold. Significantly, he noted that 'no limit was placed on orders.' By July 10, 1935 letters such as this were replaced by a mimeographed form letter which simply stated in part: 'The supply of Hudson commemorative half dollars has been exhausted. . . the coins were received from the Mint on June 28th, and on July 2nd the supply was depleted.' No mention was made that orders were not limited as to quantity.

Julius Guttag in his office

Courtesy *Stacks Bowers Galleries*, the August 2011 Chicago ANA Auction, the Guttag Family – Lives in Numismatics, By David T. Alexander, August 17-20, 2011.

Although it did not appear in print at the time, the secret was that Julius Guttag, of New Rochelle, New York, a partner in the numismatic and stock brokerage firm of Guttag Brothers, had purchased the amazing quantity of 7,500 coins for ninety-five cents each! In the trade the Hudson coins were soon referred to slyly as 'Guttag half dollars.' Hoffecker was to be the distributor of the Old Spanish Trail half dollars in 1936. Julius Guttag was to become involved in the distribution of the 1938 New Rochelle half dollars in 1937 – the coins were struck a year ahead of time. Courtesy *The Commemorative Trail*; The Journal of the Society for U.S. Commemorative Coins, Hudson Memorabilia, by the Editor, Spring – 1991, Volume 6 - #1, p. 69.

"CITY OF HUDSON, N.Y.
Sesquicentennial

[About July 1935]

Dear Sir:

The bill authorizing the Hudson commemorative half dollars called for an issue not to exceed 10,000 pieces. The demand was so great that our entire 10,000 has been exhausted and there are no more available except through a few dealers who purchased them. The coins were distributed and offered to the public at $1.00 each.

Reservations for these coins have been accepted since the first part of May. The coins were received from the mint on June 28th, and on July 2nd the supply was depleted.

Very truly yours,
John R. Evans
For the Committee

ROBERT W. CARCABA
182 Magnolia Ave.
St. Augustine, Florida

July 25, 1935

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Your kind letter of the 21st received today. I have been fortunate enough to secure some of the Hudson issue but most of them have already been sold. I can supply you with them at the present price of $21.00 each limited to 100 coins. Have a line on 200 more but haven't as yet received an answer from the holder.

Some of the New York Houses have bought of me at the above price. 100 were being shipped tomorrow to another dealer.

Let me know your wants soon as the present stock won't last long and prices will be higher on any new ones purchased.

I buy lots of coins when the price is low enough for me to make a margin of profit. Sometime when you have duplicates to dispose of send a package along on approval. Mr. White of Newton will no doubt vouch for my honesty etc.

Will be glad to hear from you again.

Very truly yours,
Hubert W. Carcaba"[6]

"This extraordinary file contains the inner story of this scarce 1930's commemorative, an issue honoring a relatively obscure Hudson River city. One fascinating item is a letter-size sheet on which Hudson Mayor Frank W. Wise embossed the City Seal, which later became a principal feature of the finished coin. He suggested a bust of President Martin Van Buren for the obverse, using a rubbing of Ira Allen from the Vermont Half Dollar and then sketched an imaginary bust of Hendrik Hudson, both ideas rejected. Included are letters and telegrams from Charles Moore and Lee Lawrie of the Commission of Fine Arts, Medallic Art Company, U.S. Mint Acting Director Miss Mary O'Reilly, Chief Engraver John R. Sinnock, and energetic Mayor Wise. 1966 documents recall Don Taxay, then Curator of the Chase Manhattan Museum of Moneys of the World arranging an exhibit of U.S. commemorative coinage. Photographs and Photostats of Hendrik Hudson's ship *Halve Maene* and photos of the original plaster models complete the file. The Hudson coin engendered controversy when the Mayor and New York coin dealer Julius Guttag diverted most of the coins and profits into their own pockets."[7]

Part of a collection of coins, tokens, paper money, etc., received from President Roosevelt on May 29, 1941, from Frank W. Wise, Mayor of Hudson, New York. Courtesy bequest of Franklin D. Roosevelt, FDR Library MO 1941.40.4.13.

[6] *An Inside View of the Coin Hobby in the 1930s: The Walter P. Nichols File*, Edited by Q. David Bowers, Bowers and Merena Galleries, Inc., Copyright 1984 by Bowers and Merena Galleries, Inc., p. 53. In my Numismatic Library.

[7] *Stacks Rare Coins*, Description of Lot Number 4500 in The Philadelphia Americana Sale, 09/23/09.

"Antihudson, New York, December 15, 1935.

In looking over the index of the 1935 Numismatists it was noted that no description of the Hudson half dollar had been given, and I hasten to fill this gap in numismatic literature. So far as known, this piece is the first ever dedicated to the coin collector. Everything about it shows the purpose for which it was issued.

Behold, on the obverse, the ship of Hudson homeward bound in all its triumph. Is it not laden, oh, my friends, with the catch of a most profitable expedition to the Sea of Suckers, where the proverbial one is born every minute? Obviously enough, the ship is none other than the 'Half Moon,' but why it was so christened has never been revealed until now. It seems that the success of such voyages is so dependent upon the influence of the moon that they are conducted entirely under her soothing rays. Indeed, great importance is even attached to the proper naming of the ship to more speedily reduce the suckers to the sate of subjugation required to land them. What more convincing proof need there be than the idiotic grinning of Luna on the coin itself? (please insert cuts of obverse and reverse of coin.)

Editor's Note – The editor has no cut of the Hudson half dollar. And he has no Hudson half dollar from which to make a cut. In the circumstances, he reserved the right to decline to purchase one at the price asked.)

But, ah! The reverse – can it really be the devil himself? Be still, my troubled heart, 'tis only the captain of the great Half Moon jauntily sporting his workaday clothes! Caught, too, in the very act of administering the coup-de-grace to the poor sucker that was snared into his trap. Another unsuspecting sucker may be seen nearby awaiting his turn and blowing his trumpet in anticipation of what he believes to be his great moment. Above may be seen the motto we all hope may come to pass. May the distributors of the coin reap both the honor and the reward (et decus et pretium) demanded by their righteous action (recti).

A. SHORNLAMB."[8]

Image courtesy of justacommeman on the PCGS Coin Forum.

"**Heads and Tails: The Hudson Half**

Taken at face value, it's only worth fifty cents. But its creation took a political deal that reached into the White House and its distribution was surrounded by controversy that brought nationwide notoriety to the city it was intended to honor. Today, (September, 1982), it is one of the most sought after American collector coins. It is known simply as 'The Hudson.'

[8] ***The Numismatist*, Description of Hudson Half Dollar, February, 1936, p. 109.**

As unlikely as it seems, Hudson, NY has its own half dollar, issued as legal tender of the United States Government.

From 1892 through 1954, the government issued a series of half dollars commemorating various persons and events. There were 48 different issues and one of them commemorates the 150th anniversary of the founding of the City of Hudson. Just how a small, relatively obscure upstate New York community achieved such a distinction makes for an interesting story.

In 1935 Hudson was to celebrate its sesquicentennial. In the midst of the depression, however, the financing of any celebration was a major undertaking. A commemorative half dollar seemed like an ideal solution. The organizers would buy 10,000 of them from the government at face value. Selling each one for one dollar would leave a profit of $5,000 for the sesquicentennial committee.

No one knows who came up with the idea, but the man generally given the credit is Hudson Mayor Frank Wise, who did most of the work to get the coin produced.

The first step was to get congressional approval and an assurance that the President would sign the bill. To this end, the Democratic mayor, along with Columbia County's Democratic leaders, decided it was time to call in some political debts. As Frank Wise later told the story, a small, unofficial delegation went to Washington, DC to discuss the matter with a certain elected official. They reminded him of the early support he had received from Columbia county Democrats in his 1928 gubernatorial bid, and of their early support at the 1932 Democratic National Convention. And since Franklin D. Roosevelt was a man who paid his political debts, legislation authorizing the coinage of the Hudson Half Dollar zipped through Congress on May 2, 1935 and was signed by the President.

Mayor Wise took charge of the project and moved quickly to bring it to fruition. Although Wise wanted John Flanagan to design the coin, the commission went to Chester Beach. Wise's committee suggested a portrait of Henry Hudson for one side of the coin and the Hudson city seal for the other side. Beach made some sketches for the portrait of Henry Hudson, but since no pictures of the famed explorer had survived, Beach recommended that Hudson's flagship the Half Moon be used instead and the committee agreed.

The city seal used on the reverse side borders on the comical. It shows Neptune riding backwards on a whale with a mermaid blowing on a conch shell. For many years local wags said the seal was all too symbolic, suggesting a certain backwardness on the part of the city.

The final design took Beach only about a week to complete and it was quickly approved by the National Fine Arts Commission. To speed up the project the Medallic Art Company in New York City was engaged to make the hubs from which the coinage dies were to be made. The U.S. mint in Philadelphia struck 10,008 coins, of which 8 were kept by the mint for assay purposes. The newly minted coins, which were of the same size and silver composition as regular half dollars, were released to the committee on June 28, 1935.

It was at this point that things began to get sticky. Despite many years of research, a number of interviews with the late Mayor Wise and anyone else who would talk about the distribution, the full story has never come out. But, to coin a phrase, 'something seemed rotten in Hudson.'

First some background. In the mid 1930's commemorative coins were all the rage. New issues sold out almost as soon as they became available and prices soared above the original issue price within a matter of weeks. The Hudson Half followed that pattern.

The First National Bank and Trust Company was designated to handle the distribution of the coins. According to numismatic reference books, the issue was sold out by July 2, just four days after the coins appeared.

Thousands of disappointed collectors across the country had their orders returned, marked 'sold out.' By December the nationwide asking price for the Hudson Half was six dollars. Many collectors and others raised an outcry about the Hudson and other commemoratives. One collector wrote to the national coin collectors' magazine, The Numismatist, in December, 1935. Signing himself 'A. Shorn Lamb,' writing from 'Anti-Hudson, NY,' he penned a scathing satire on the design of the piece and its distribution.

And so all the Hudson Halves were sold. Or were they? It is now known that, as late as 1938, a number of people were being quietly cajoled into buying substantial numbers of unsold half dollars. A Catskill bank official who was a part time coin dealer in 1938 tells the story of a phone call he received that year from the bank in Hudson, asking if he wanted to buy Hudson Halves for a mere 65 cents each. It was explained that bank officials were afraid they were going to have to return the coins to the mint for melting to retrieve the 50 cent cost.

Eventually all the coins were in fact sold. But the question remains: where were those coins between 1935 and 1938? Late in 1937 the speculative commemorative bubble burst and the artificially high prices for commemoratives fell like a rock. Did insiders, who might have held back the coins in 1935, find themselves with an unsaleable (*sic*) item? No one will say, either on or off the record. Many of those involved are long dead, so the exact story will probably never be known. Even if there was nothing illegal about the distribution there are certainly ethical and moral questions that remain.

Abuses in other issues finally brought the situation to the attention of Congress. This, followed by the start of World War II, brought the commemorative flood to a halt. Even after the war only three issues were approved.

Today the Hudson Half remains one of the most elusive and sought after of American collector coins. Average uncirculated coins bring $350 to $500 each, depending upon market conditions. Really pristine, unmarked coins have brought $1,000. One Hudson Half, reportedly one of the first struck, commanded a price of $1,500.

In 30 years as a coin collector, I have seen more than 2,000 individual Hudson Halves, many of them badly cared for and hopelessly damaged. A good estimate would be that as many as 20% of the original issue may be impaired in some way.

For the rest of the coins, however, the future is bright. Over the years they have shown a consistent increase in value. Imagine the delight of one individual with a horde of 340 pieces, given current prices.

So Hudson, a city that has always been steeped in history anyway, has a secure place in numismatic history as well, although the honor conferred by the Hudson Half can be seen as something of a mixed blessing, to say the least. Born of a political deal, held up to ridicule for its design and erratic distribution, the Hudson Half has emerged to become a true rarity, held in high esteem by collectors. If the city, which seems to be enjoying a resurgence of its own, can do as well as its coin, there will be two happy endings to this story.”[9]

“As a native of Hudson, NY, back in the '80's, I tried to track down some of the locals who were involved with the distribution and get the ‘real’ story. Needless to say, many of the Sesquicentennial Committee members had passed on by then but a few were still around.

The short version is that after the Committee ordered the 10,000 half’s, they started to get cold feet (after all, it was the Great Depression, you know) and were worried about getting stuck with many of the coins. They even started to require Hudson City and Columbia County employees to take some of the coins as part of their paychecks.

(This fact was verified by several retired employees that I spoke with) Then the Guttag Bros. of NYC came along - now I was never able to determine who approached who first (the Guttag's or the Committee) but the bottom line is that the Committee agreed to sell 7,500 of the coins to the Guttag's at a discount just to get rid of them. Then, when the orders from the public poured in, many had to be returned with a ‘sold out’ notice. The rest, as they say, is history.”[10]

[9] *River Valley Chronicle*, Heads and Tails: The Hudson Half by Carmine Pizza. September 1982, p. 35-37. Courtesy of the Hudson Area Library.

[10] *Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS) Coin Forum Member ‘2nd Charter’* from a post on the PCGS Coin Forum dated 02/01/11.

Courtesy of *Stacks Bowers Galleries*.

A Hudson Sesquicentennial Half Dollar

was authorized in a Bill signed by President Roosevelt on May 5th, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of Hudson, N. Y., as a city. The design, by Chester Beach, shows the Half Moon (the flagship of Hendrick Hudson) on one side and the ancient seal of Hudson (the spouting whale and two great gods of the sea) on the other.

Price, per coin, $1.18,

which includes packing, postage and registration. Additional coins in same shipment at $1.05 each.

The issue must be limited to 10,000 pieces, as provided in the Bill.

Orders may be sent to and shipments will be made about July 1st by

First National Bank & Trust Co.
Dept. 82, Hudson, N. Y.

***The Commemorative Trail*, the Journal of the Society for U.S. Commemorative Coins. Spring 2001, Vol. 18, No.5, p. 22.**

After 6 days return to
THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK & TRUST CO.
Box 148
HUDSON, N.Y.

Dr. Walter R. Wiley
Wassaic State School
Wassaic, N. Y.

1 42

Front and back of envelope used to mail Hudson coin

HUDSON, N.Y. _____ 193 __ No. _____

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY 50-389/2
OF HUDSON

PAY TO THE ORDER OF _____ $ _____

_____ DOLLARS

SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES

Sesquicentennial

1785 1935

City of Hudson, N. Y.

Third Oldest City in State

HUDSON MAY 4 2 - 4 1935 N. Y.

UNITED STATES POSTAGE 3

Walter R. Wiley, M. D.
Wassaic State School
Wassaic
N.Y.

Front of envelope used to mail Hudson Sesquicentennial material and blank check from the bank that handled the issue.

"11

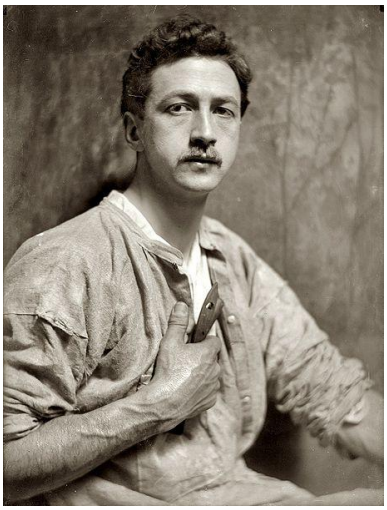
[11] *The Commemorative Trail*, the Journal of the Society for U.S. Commemorative Coins. Spring 2001, Vol. 18, No.5, p. 11-12, 15.

Cornelius Vermeule writes: "Chester Beach, encountered early in the 1920s as both a medalist and a designer of coins, reappears as an artist in the series of commemorative half dollars. In the Hudson Sesquicentennial piece of 1935 he has combined the lettering of his Monroe Doctrine Centennial coin with the plasticity of his Lexington-Concord half dollar. The ship motif occurs again, logically, as the *Half Moon* of Henry Hudson sails toward the right front, across the obverse [*sic*]. The ship, its full set of sails, and the visual pun of a half moon are well enough spaced out in the field, with considerable success, but the word HUDSON squashed beneath the waves is unnecessary since the full title, CITY OF HUDSON, dominates the reverse [*sic*]. This reverse is taken up with the city's unusual seal: Neptune rides backward on a spouting whale, and a mermaid blows a conch shell (fig. 204). While the ship is straightforward fare for commemorative half dollars, the composition on the opposite side is a charming throwback to colonial days and, in American numismatics, to the quasi-federal and state coins of the period 1780 to 1792. One of the most pleasing features of this reverse design is the motto that crosses as upper enframement of the composition, to form a baroque ribbon.

As a total statement, although scarcely novel or exciting, this coin avoids some of the mannerisms of Chester Beach's medallic and numismatic art of the 1920s, flat and busy pseudoclassical figures expressing empty allegory. The Hudson Sesquicentennial half dollar is one of the coins in this series that confers a pan-American dignity on a subject really of moment only to a limited audience. Few of the commemorative coins in the group honoring cities or local organizations were both so unpretentious and so full of historical atmosphere, without resorting to clichés such as the eagle, the Indian, or Liberty and obscurities, such as local animals amid local trees. The baroque motto above Neptune and his group makes it evident that this subject, appealing and amusing in itself, appears here because it is the singular characteristic of the City of Hudson on the river of the same name.

Perhaps underrated in discussions of commemorative coins in the 1910s, Chester Beach did receive the accolade of G.G. Proske. Referring to the sculpture for Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina, this distinguished scholar of the Hispanic Society called Beach '[o]ne of the few American sculptors to adopt Rodin's vibrating surfaces throughout his work.'[7] He is known for a very famous motif, seen in one form or another by almost every American. In his work for the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, Beach not only designed *Service to the nation*, described by Proske, as 'a powerful male figure with coils of wire behind the head, and above it a globe supported by personifications of War and Peace,'[8] but also created the *Flying Mercury* in coils of cable that stood atop the telephone building in New York and which for years, together with the bell, was the symbol of the telephone empire. Beach was, therefore, a versatile sculptor who could fashion a large-scale group of lasting import, but could also turn his hand with almost equal skill to the exacting demands of modern machine-made coins."[12]

7. B.G. Proske, *Brookgreen Gardens: Sculpture* (Brookgreen, SC, 1943), 211.
8. Ibid., 213.
[12] *Numismatic Art in America; Aesthetics of the United States Coinage*, 2nd edition, Cornelius Vermeule, Whitman Publishing, LLC, 2007, p. 176-177.



Chester Beach ca., 1910.

"Chester Beach Bio:

Sculptor Chester Beach (1881-1956) was known for portrait busts, allegorical and mythological figures, coins and medallic art in the Beaux-Arts tradition. He lived and worked in New York City and Brewster, New York.

He was the son of Chilion Beach and Elizabeth Ferris Beach, was born in San Francisco on May 23, 1881. He initially studied at the California School of Mechanical Arts in 1899. He remained in San Francisco and between 1900 and 1902 continued his art training at the Mark Hopkins Institute of Art while working as a jewelry designer. To further his career and exposure to artistic trends, Beach moved to New York City in 1903. The following year, he went to Paris, enrolled at the École des Beaux Arts, and also studied with Raoul Verlet at the Académie Julian.

Upon his return to New York in 1907, Beach established a studio on Tenth Street. He won the National Academy of Design's Barnett Prize for a sculpture in 1907 and the Academy elected him an Associate Artist the following year. His increased stature resulted in numerous portrait commissions and eventually and eventually lead to commissions for monuments and architectural sculpture. In 1910, Chester Beach married Eleanor Hollis Murdock, a painter he met when both were art students in Paris. The couple spent the next two years in Rome; for several years and after returning Beach continued to spend time in Italy and maintained a studio in Rome.

Solo exhibitions of Beach's work were presented at Macbeth Gallery (1912), Pratt Institute (1913), Cincinnati Art Museum (1916), John Herron Art Institute (1916), and Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester (1917). In addition to frequent participation in annual exhibitions at the National Academy of Design and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Beach was represented in the Panama-Pacific International Exposition (195), and in group shows at venues including: Art Institute of Chicago, Boston Art Club, California Palace of the Legion of Honor, and National Arts Club.

The gold medal presented by Académie Julian (1905), Beach's first award, was followed by many other prizes, among them: American Numismatic Society prize for a medal commemorating the Peace of Versailles (1919) and its Saltus Medal for distinguished medallic art (1946); Architectural League of New York gold medal (1924); National Academy of Design Barnett Prize (1907) and the Watrous gold medal (1926); National Arts Club medal and prizes (1923, 1926, 1932); and the Panama-Pacific International Exposition silver medal (1915).

Beach was an Academician of the National Academy of Design, a member of the American Numismatic Society, Architectural League of New York, National Arts Club, National Institute of Arts and Letters, and the National Sculpture Society (President, 1927-1928).

For more than 40 years, Beach lived and worked at 207 East 17th Street. The brownstone, purchased in 1913, was large enough for the family's home, his studio, and additional studios that were rented to other artists. Through barter, Beach acquired land in Brewster, NY, and in 1917 hired Italian stonemasons to build a studio. Later, they erected a summer house for the family. Many old stone walls on the site provided material for both buildings and Beach named the property Oldwalls.

After a long illness, Chester Beach died at Oldwalls on August 6, 1956. The funeral service was held at his Brewster, NY, studio and he is buried in Cold Spring Cemetery, Cold Spring, NY."[13]

[13] ***Archives of American Art.***

Congressional Authorization Act:

[PUBLIC—NO. 48—74TH CONGRESS]

[H.R. 6457]

AN ACT

To authorize the coinage of 50-cent pieces in commemoration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the city of Hudson, New York, and of the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of the city of Providence, Rhode Island, respectively.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in commemoration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the city of Hudson, New York, there shall be coined by the Director of the Mint ten thousand silver 50-cent pieces, and in commemoration of the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of the city of Providence, Rhode Island, there shall be coined by the Director of the Mint, fifty thousand silver 50-cent pieces, in each case such coins to be of standard size, weight, and fineness of a special appropriate design to be fixed by the Director of the Mint, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, but the United States shall not be subject to the expense of making the models for master dies or other preparations for this coinage.

SEC. 2. Coins commemorating the founding of the city of Hudson, New York, shall be issued at par, and only upon the request of the committee, person, or persons duly authorized by the mayor of the city of Hudson, New York, and the coins commemorating the founding of the city of Providence, Rhode Island, shall be issued at par and only upon the request of the Providence Tercentenary Committee.

SEC. 3. Such coins may be disposed of at par or at a premium by the committee, person, or persons duly authorized in section 2, and all proceeds shall be used in furtherance of the commemoration of the founding of the cities of Hudson, New York, and Providence, Rhode Island, respectively.

SEC. 4. All laws now in force relating to the subsidiary silver coins of the United States and the coining or striking of the same; regulating and guarding the process of coinage; providing for the purchase of material, and for the transportation, distribution, and redemption of the coins; for the prevention of debasement or counterfeiting; for the security of the coin; or for any other purposes, whether said laws are penal or otherwise, shall, so far as applicable, apply to the coinage herein directed.

SEC. 5. The coins authorized herein shall be issued in such numbers, and at such times as they may be requested by the committee, person or persons duly authorized by said mayor of Hudson, New York, in the case of coins issued in commemoration of the founding of that city, and by the Providence Tercentenary Committee in the case of coins commemorating the founding of the city of Providence, Rhode Island, and in each case only upon payment to the United States of the face value of such coins.

Approved, May 2, 1935.

1935 Hudson, NY, History and Sesquicentennial Celebration

Henry Hudson. Courtesy of *The Memorial History of the City of New–York*, *From its First Settlement to the Year 1892*. Edited by James Grant Wilson, Vol 1, New-York History Company; 132 Nassau Street, 1892. Printed at the De Vinne Press, p. 108.

"Washington.-Hudson, N. Y. once a famous whaling base and second port in the state, recently celebrated its sesquicentennial.

'Despite a long sea-going tradition, the city of Hudson is no seaport,' says the National Geographic society. 'It lies 120 miles inland, between the Catskills and the Berkshires, on the east shore of the Hudson river. The site was chosen by an adventurous group of Quakers from Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, who sailed their ships up the river in 1783, bringing families, supplies, and even portable houses with them. Two years later their settlement was incorporated as a city, the third city in the Empire state, preceded only by Albany and New York.'

'Sturdy vessels from Hudson shipyards pushed their bows through distant seas. Rich cargoes of sperm oil and whalebone from the South Pacific; seal oil, furs, and hides from the Falkland Islands and Antarctic waters; rum, molasses, and sugar from the West Indies, were unloaded at the city docks. Thrifty farming communities for miles around brought their produce to Hudson warehouses. At one time an average of 15 ships a day cleared the harbor.

Steam Succeeds Sail.

'By the middle of the last century whaling and sealing had declined, steam was succeeding sail, and freight cars were carrying Hudson valley produce to New York markets. Hudson's industries still are profitable though perhaps less romantic. They include the manufacture of cement, ice tools, ginger ale, power presses, and knitted goods.

'At the little village of Kinderhook, just north of Hudson, is the stately old home of Martin Van Buren, eighth President of the United States. Washington Irving used to visit at Kinderhook, and it was there that he knew the schoolmaster who is Ichabod Crane in the 'Legend of Sleepy Hollow.' The mythical Rip Van Winkle lived just across the river in Catskill village. It was high in the wooded Catskill mountains that Rip found the ghostly crew of the Half Moon, playing at ninepins. Echoes from their game roll over the river in every thunderstorm. The new $3,000,000 bridge from Hudson to Catskill, which was dedicated during the sesquicentennial celebrations, is named for Rip Van Winkle.

'The wild Hudson river scenery seems to have awed both superstitious Indians and stolid Netherlanders, and inspired all sorts of weird river legends. Wicked goblins haunt the highlands, and there is a spectre ship that sails the river against the wind and tide, sure warning of a bad storm.

'To river captains of colonial days the Hudson was measured by 'reaches'–Seylmaker's reach, Fisher's reach, Clover reach. There were 14 'reaches' between New York and Albany. The first Dutch settlements were at river landings where boats could anchor. Hudson then was known at Claverack Landing, from the Dutch name for Clover reach.

Historic Boats Pass.

A long procession of historic boats has passed through Clover reach; Henry Hudson's Half Moon, searching a passage to China, high-pooped Dutch traders loaded with fortunes in beaver pelts, yachts of wealthy patroons bringing Old world luxuries to New Netherlands, swift English frigates and outlawed pirate ships.

'White-winged passenger sloops, carrying enormous sails, made the trip from New York to Albany inn seven days. Then Fulton's Clermont broke all speed records. With sails set fore and aft, and black wood smoke pouring from its high funnel, the clumsy little steamer moved up the Hudson at five miles an hour.

'Safety barges,' towed by steam, but secure from exploding engines, suddenly became popular. In 1825, heralded by booming cannon, the first string of Erie canal boats floated down the river past the green hills of Hudson."[1]

"Hudson, July 3 (UP).–Because of an accumulated deficit of between $90,000,000 and 100,000,000, New York State's contributions toward relief cannot go beyond present figures, Governor Lehman asserted last night at the sesquicentennial celebration of the founding of the city of Hudson.

Speaking first at Catskill, where he said the new $2,350,000 Rip Van Winkle bridge brings 'an era of progress and friendly cooperation' among the people of both sides of the Hudson River, Governor Lehman crossed into Hudson, where he added the structure links up 'all of the New England territory with the Hudson River Valley, the Catskills, our southern tier of counties, New Jersey and Pennsylvania**. . .** "[2]

First Day Cover.

"**...** The Annual Meeting of the Common Council was held Tuesday, May 1st, 1934, at 8:00 P. M**. . .**

President Best offered Mayor Wise his chair from which the Mayor presented and read his annual message as follows:

May 1, 1934

To the Honorable, the Common Council
of the City of Hudson, N. Y.

Gentlemen: **. . .**

Recommendations

. . . Very briefly allow me to review my recommendations as submitted to your Honorable Body at your January meeting.

. . . (12) Sesqui-Centennial—On the evening of February 22nd, this year in a brief talk before the members of the V. F. W., at their annual banquet, I made mention of the fact that in 1935, the City of Hudson would celebrate its one hundred and fiftieth birthday, the exact day being April 22nd of that year, as it was on that day that the authorization act was duly passed.

In a very short time, I hope to address your Honorable Body and lay before you tentative or preliminary plans for a proper and fitting celebration of this very auspicious occasion.

[1] *The Reporter*, Le Grand, Iowa. Hudson River Port Holds Celebration, August 23, 1935.

[2] *Syracuse Herald*, Governor Addresses Celebration at Hudson, Opens New Bridge. Wednesday, July 3, 1935.

When we realize that our city was incorporated before the Adoption of the Constitution, we cannot afford to allow this anniversary to pass unnoticed.

Leaving with you this last really pleasant thought, and hoping that the coming year will see the end of the period of distress, which has been so burdensome to the City and individuals alike, I sincerely trust that you members of the City council, will continue to cooperate with me in giving to our fellow citizens a sound business administration.

Sincerely submitted,

Frank W. Wise,
Mayor

On motion of Alderman Weiman, seconded by Alderman Brady, the Annual Message of Mayor Wise was received, placed on file, and ordered spread in full upon the Minutes of the meeting."[3]

"**. . .** A Special Meeting of the Common Council was held Friday, December 21st, 1934 at 8:00 P. M.

There were present: President Best, Alderman Hallenbeck, Brady, Cartwright, Crouse, Decker, Hurley, Marshall, Solomon, Thorn, Weinman, also His Honor Mayor Wise, City Treasurer Herbs, Corporation Counsel Moy and representatives of the Board of Education, the Hudson Taxpayers Association and citizens.

The Clerk presented and read the following call for the Special Meeting, also the following communication from the Board of Estimate and Apportionment:

December 19, 1934.

Charles E. Hopkins
City Clerk

Hudson, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to Section 197 of the Charter of the City of Hudson, N. Y., I hereby call a Special Meeting of the Common Council to be held Friday, December 21st, 1934 at 8:00 P. M., in the Common Council Chambers in the City Hall Building, for the purpose of consideration and adoption of the Budget for the year 1935-1936, as prepared by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

Very truly yours,

Frank W. Wise,
Mayor

December 12, 1934.

The Honorable, the Common Council
of the City of Hudson, N. Y.

Gentlemen: **. . .**

You will note in the present budget that we are carrying an item of $1,200 for Sesqui-Centennial. As you will recall on April 22, 1935 the City of Hudson will be 150 years old. We have deemed it fitting that a suitable celebration be arranged to commemorate this event. While we do not believe the amount set forth will be great enough to bear the expenses of this memorable event, we believe that more funds may be raised by other means**. . .**

Respectfully submitted:

Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

[3] ***Proceedings of the Common Council of the City of Hudson*. Published by Order of the Common Council, The Hudson Press, Hudson, N. Y., May 1, 1934, p. 1, 13.**

Frank W. Wise,
Mayor.

Edward H. Best,
Pres. of Common Council

M. William Herbs, City Treasurer

On motion of Alderman Weinman, seconded by Alderman Brady, these were received and placed on file."[4]

". . . A Regular Meeting of the Common Council was held Thursday, January 31, 1935 at 8:00 P. M.

There were present: President Marshall, Alderman Hallenbeck, Brady, Cartwright, Crouse, Decker, Hurley, Solomon, Thorn, and Weinman.

On motion of Alderman Weinman, seconded by Alderman Hurley, the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was dispensed with.

The Clerk presented and read the following communication from His Honor Mayor Wise:

January 31, 1935.

The Honorable, the Common Council
City of Hudson, New York

Gentlemen:

I believe that you realize the necessity for the appointing of a general chairman and a general committee to properly prepare the details for the celebration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birth of our City. In order to expedite the movement we must begin at once to formulate our plans for this event. With this thought in mind, I am asking an official sanction by your Honorable Body of the appointment of Judge Tristram Coffin as general chairman of the celebration committee.

You are aware of the fact that we have set aside an item of $1,200.00 in the 1935-36 budget to be used in connection with the celebration. This item will not be sufficient to cover all expenditures and means must be devised to pay all expenses. If you approve my selection of the chairman we expect to begin immediately to complete our organization, selecting committees to arrange for all details.

We expect to keep you advised as to the progress we make in the arrangements.

Very truly yours,

Frank W. Wise,
Mayor

On motion of Alderman Weinman, seconded by Alderman Hurley, the appointment of Judge Tristram Coffin as general chairman of the Sesqui-Centennial Celebration committee as appointed by Mayor Wise was ratified by unanimous vote of those present. . .

On motion of Alderman Weinman, seconded by Alderman Brady, the meeting adjourned sine die subject to call by President of the Council or His Honor Mayor Wise.

Charles E. Hopkins,
Clerk"[5]

". . . A Regular Meeting of the Common Council was held Thursday, March 28, 1935 at 8:00 P. M.

There were present: President Marshall, Alderman Hallenbeck, Brady, Cartwright, Decker, Hurley, Miller, Solomon, Thorn, and Weinman.

[4] ***Proceedings of the Common Council of the City of Hudson*. Published by Order of the Common Council, The Hudson Press, Hudson, N. Y., December 21st, 1934, p. 237-240.**

[5] ***Proceedings of the Common Council of the City of Hudson*. Published by Order of the Common Council, The Hudson Press, Hudson, N. Y., January 31st, 1935, p. 2297-298, 316.**

On motion of Alderman Weinman, seconded by Alderman Brady, the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was ordered dispensed with.

The Clerk presented and read the following communication from His Honor Mayor Wise:

March 27, 1935.

The Honorable, the Common Council
City of Hudson, New York

Gentlemen: **. . .**

Alderman Thorn addressed the meeting, stating that the Sesquicentennial Committee was diligent and had many plans which they would later give to the Council. He predicted that this would be an outstanding event in the history of the City**. . .**

On motion of Alderman Weinman, seconded by Alderman Soloman, the meeting was adjourned.

Charles E. Hopkins,
Clerk"[6]

"A Regular Meeting of the Common Council was held Friday, March 31, 1935 at 8:00 P. M.

There were present: President Marshall, Alderman Hallenbeck, Cartwright, Crouse, Solomon, Thorn, and Weinman.

On motion of Alderman Cartwright, seconded by Alderman Weinman, the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was ordered dispensed with.

The Clerk presented and read the following communication from His Honor Mayor Wise:

May 31, 1935.

The Honorable, the Common Council
City of Hudson, New York

Gentlemen:

In connection with the attached invoice voucher in the amount of $1,000.00, I believe that some explanation is due.

As you know as part of the Sesqui-Centennial program we have considered the coinage of a commemorative half dollar which was authorized by Congress and the bill was signed by the President. In order to obtain the full approval for this coinage it is mandatory that we obtain a design which would meet the approval of the Director of the Mint, with Secretary of the Treasury and the Commission of Fine Arts. The Commission also recommended a recognized sculptor whose design would be acceptable to the Commission. From this list was picked the name of Chester Beach, who has since fulfilled and designed the model which has been acceptable to the Commission of Fine Arts. The price of $1,000 is set by Congressional agreement. In as much as Mr. Beach has fulfilled his part of the agreement, I am asking that this invoice be approved in order that he may obtain his fee.

You will recall that in the 1935-36 budget there was set up in this budget the amount of $1,200.00 for this celebration, this item of $1,000.00 should be charged against the $1,200.00 as set up in the budget. This coinage which calls for the issuing of 10,000 one-half dollars will be sold by us at a cost of $1.00 each. We believe that we will be able to raise approximately $3,000.00 over and above all expenses which might be incurred in connection with this commemorative coin.

I would also ask that you authorize me to use the additional $200.00 remaining in the Sesqui Fund as set up in the budget. This additional $200.00 would be used for the Government minting charge.

Very truly yours,

Frank W. Wise,
Mayor

[6] *Proceedings of the Common Council of the City of Hudson*. Published by Order of the Common Council, The Hudson Press, Hudson, N. Y., March 28th, 1935, p. 344, 353, 356.

On motion of Alderman Weinman, seconded by Alderman Cartwright, this was received, placed on file, and the Mayor's recommendations followed by the following vote:

Ayes—President Marshall, Aldermen Hallenbeck, Cartwright, Crouse, Miller, Soloman, Thorn, Weinman.

Nays—0"[7]

"A Special Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Hudson, N. Y., was held Thursday, October 3, 1935, at 8:00 P. M.

There were present: President Marshall, Alderman Hallenbeck, Brady, Cartwright, Decker, Miller, Soloman, Thorn, Weinman**. . .**

The clerk presented and read the following communication from his Honor, Mayor Wise:**. . .**

Alderman Solomon then asked relative to the funds received from the sale of coins and President Marshall stated that in due time the general committee would file a complete accounting, but of course this was a matter over which the council had no jurisdiction.

There being no further business before the meeting, [*sic*] on motion of Alderman Brady, seconded by Alderman Cartwright, the meeting adjourned.

Charles E. Hopkins
City Clerk."[8]

"A Regular Meeting of the Common Council was held Thursday, December 26th, 1935 at 8:00 P. M.

There were present: President Marshall, Alderman Hallenbeck, Brady, Cartwright, Crouse, Decker, Hurley, Soloman, Thorn, Weinman.

President Marshall addressed the Council, stating that His Honor Mayor Wise, desired to present a communication to the Council at this time, being his last attendance at a regular meeting of this body before retiring as Mayor, and he, therefore, would turn the meeting over to him.

Mayor Wise then presented and read the following message:

December 26, 1935.

To the Honorable, the Common Council,
City of Hudson, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

As we are about to close our elective terms I feel it incumbent upon me to express to you my thanks for the general whole-hearted co-operation of the recommendations, which have been presented to you by this office.

I believe, as I review the past two and one half years in which it has been my pleasure to serve the City of Hudson in the capacity of Mayor, that there has not been a single negative reply to one legislative request, which I have made to your Honorable Body. The associations which have been my lot have necessitated requests to two individual presidents of the Council and also two individual and collective Council bodies. I express thanks to President Marshall and also to Past President and present District Attorney Best for the part that they have taken in seconding my recommendations**. . .**

The past year witnessed the celebration of the 150th anniversary of our incorporation, a celebration which will no doubt go down in the annals of our community. In connection with this allow me to review very quickly some of the high lights of the celebration—the opening of the new Athletic Field, which will be of the greatest benefit to the future generation of our City; the historic pageant; the immense historic parade; the gorgeous window displays of historic trinkets; the great display of antiques, all of which had a bearing upon the development of this community; the opening on the new street between Harry Howard Avenue and the Boulevards and the fine firemanic parade, which closed the gala week.

[7] *Proceedings of the Common Council of the City of Hudson*. Published by Order of the Common Council, The Hudson Press, Hudson, N. Y., May 31st, 1935, p. 54-55.

[8] *Proceedings of the Common Council of the City of Hudson*. Published by Order of the Common Council, The Hudson Press, Hudson, N. Y., October 3, 1935, p. 145, 152.

The financing of this Sesqui-Centennial week was made possible by the co-operation of the Council members, the citizens in general, the Chamber of Commerce and the local civic bodies.

I again express to you Councilmen, who have acted upon my recommendations and trust that you may again at some future time be called upon to serve your community.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank W. Wise,
Mayor.

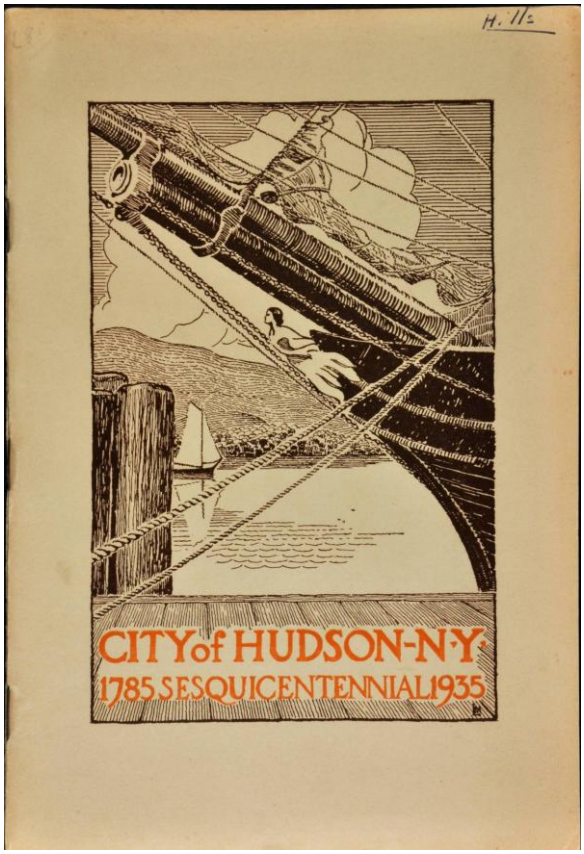
On motion of Alderman Cartwright, seconded by Alderman Weinman, this was ordered received, placed on file, and spread on the minutes of the meeting**. . .**

Alderman Soloman referred to the report of the Sesqui-Centennial Committee, stating that this had not as yet been submitted.

President Marshall replied, stating that all of the City's appropriation had been audited by the Council and was to be found in the vouchers on file. He said that a final report of the general committee had not yet been made but he believed it would be forthcoming when all its matters had been closed up**. . .**

On motion of Alderman Weinman, and seconded by Alderman Brady, the meeting adjourned.

Charles E. Hopkins
Clerk."[9]



City of Hudson-N.Y. 1785 Sesquicentennial 1935. 36pp. 250 x 170 mm. Published by the Hudson Sesquicentennial Celebration and printed by the Hudson Press. This volume gives a brief history of the city, and is illustrated with dozens of historic photos of persons, homes, bridges, etc. The importance of this booklet is accented by the fact that little ephemera is known to have been produced in connection with the Hudson Sesquicentennial. Courtesy of Hudson Area Library.

[9] ***Proceedings of the Common Council of the City of Hudson*. Published by Order of the Common Council, The Hudson Press, Hudson, N. Y., December 26, 1935, p. 238-242, 251.**

1785 1935

CITY OF HUDSON, N. Y.

Sesquicentennial

•

PROGRAM

HISTORY OF HUDSON

COMMITTEES

PATRONS

HON. FRANK W. WISE
Mayor
City of Hudson

HON. TRISTRAM COFFIN
General Chairman
Sesquicentennial Celebration

Program

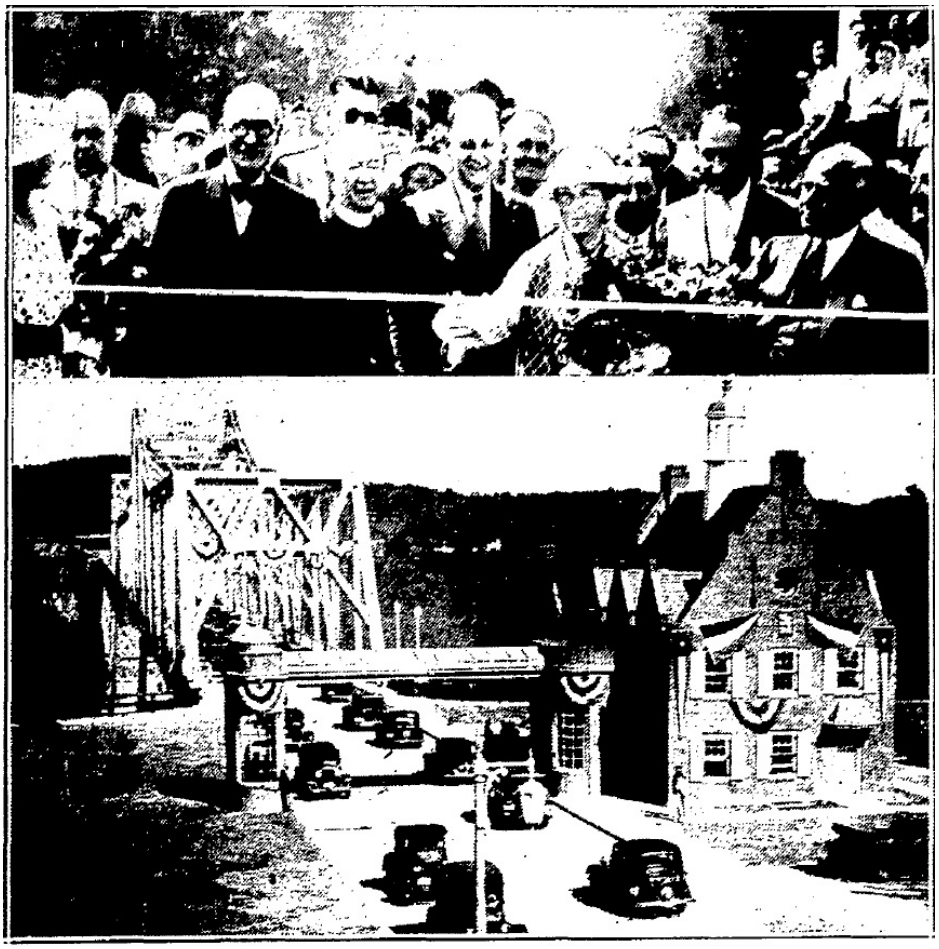
Sesquicentennial Celebration

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

Morning Services of historical nature in all Hudson Churches.

TUESDAY, JULY 2

3:00 P. M.—Opening of Rip Van Winkle Bridge.



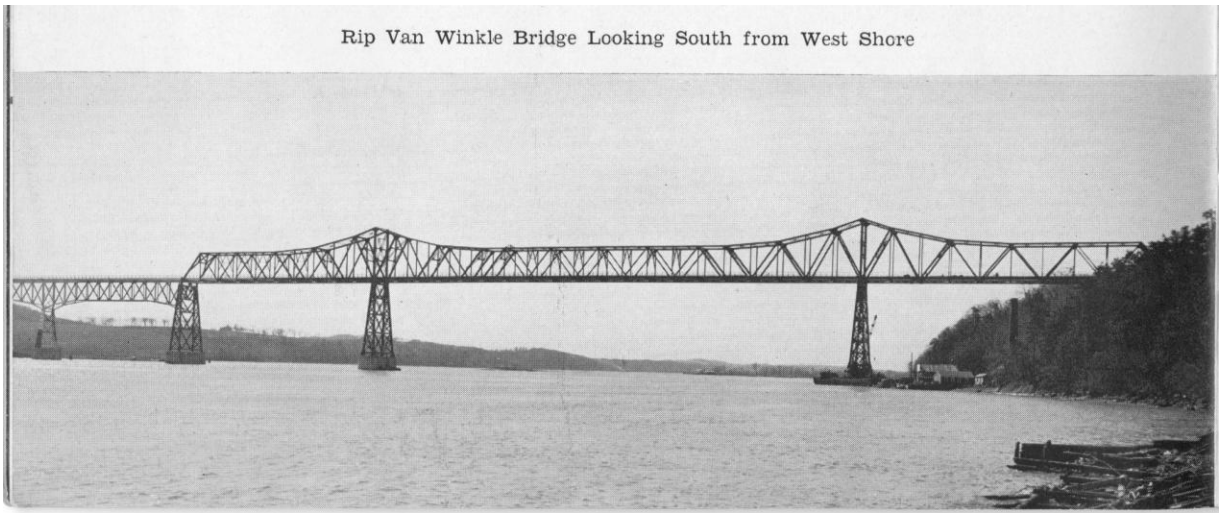
Mrs. Frederick Stuart Greene, wife of the State superintendent of Public Works, is seen cutting the ribbon which formerly opened the $2,350,000 Rip Van Winkle Bridge over the Hudson River. Colonel Greene is seen on the left, with glasses and bow tie. Attorney General John J. Bennett is seen on the left of Mrs. Greene and Governor Herbert H. Lehman on the right. The span, connecting the Catskill and Berkshire Mountain areas at Catskill and Hudson, is seen below. On the right is seen the toll house where a small charge will be collected until the cost of the bridge has been paid. Associated Press Photos. Courtesy *Syracuse Herald*, Wednesday, July 3, 1935.

4:00 P. M.—Reception of distinguished guests at General Worth Hotel.

7:00 P. M.—Banquet at State Armory. Speakers: Governor Herbert H. Lehman, Lieut.-Gov. M. William Bray, Mayor John Boyd Thatcher.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3

2:00 P. M.—Dedication of Athletic Field and Athletic Meet by schools of Hudson and other cities.


Rip Van Winkle Bridge Looking South from West Shore

9:00 P. M.—Costume Ball at State Armory.

THURSDAY, JULY 4

2:00 P. M.—Columbia County Historical Parade.

8:00 P. M.—Band Concert.

9:00 P. M.—Fireworks at Athletic Field.

FRIDAY, JULY 5

8:00 P.M.—Hudson Historical Pageant at Athletic Field.

SATURDAY, JULY 6

2:00 P. M.—Firemen's Inspection and Parade.

8:00 P. M.—Hudson Historical Pageant at Athletic Field.

SUNDAY, JULY 7

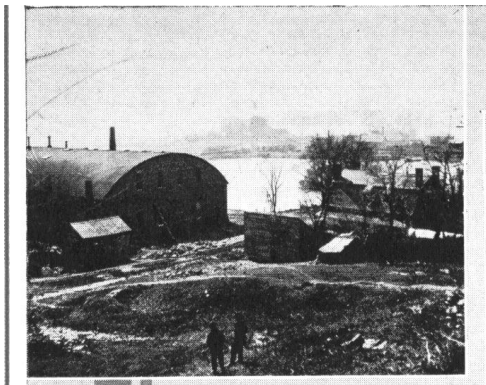
7:00 P. M.—Combined religious service of all Hudson Churches with augmented choir at Athletic Field.

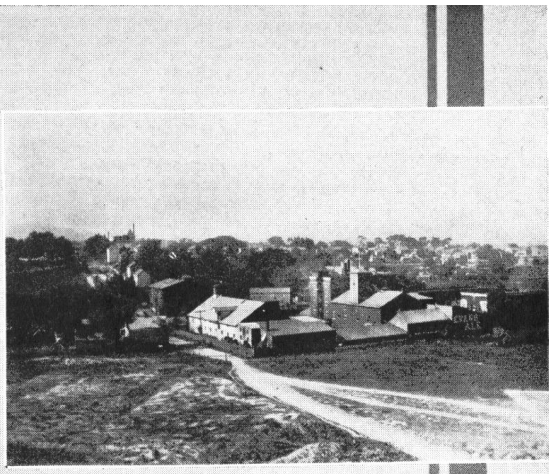
Bridge

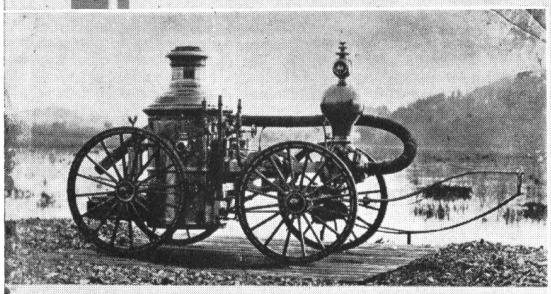
The Rip Van Winkle Bridge, spanning the Hudson River between Catskill and Hudson, N. Y., is of the cantilever type and is but a few feet short of being a mile in length. Suspended one hundred and forty-five feet in the air, it crosses the main channel and over the New York Central track to the mainland on the east.

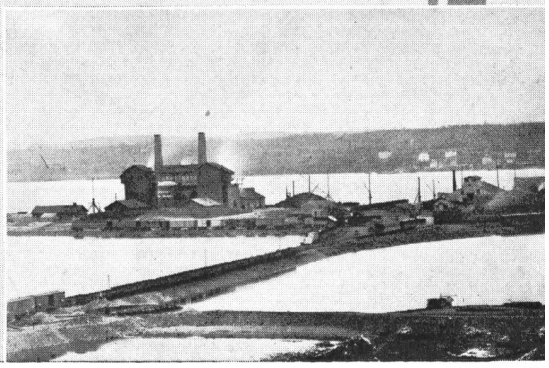
The bridge carries a thirty foot roadway and a four foot sidewalk, and is brilliantly illuminated at night. Approximately twelve thousand tons of steel was requir3ed for the bridge, and it provided six months' work for two hundred men in the steel shops. The building contractor was the Frederick Snare Corporation of New York City and the bridge was erected under the direction of the New York State Department of Public Works, of which Clifford L. Miller is Chairman and Robert Hoe and Addison P. Jones are members. The total cost, including engineering, interest charges, and land purchases is over $2,350,000, this sum to be retired from toll earnings.

Two V-shaped approaches, enclosing landscaped grounds, give access to the bridge. On the Catskill side is the Plaza, the Administration Building of brick Dutch colonial design, and a parking space. A most beautiful view of the Hudson River may be obtained from the walks of the Plaza.









Round House from Promenade Hill
Clapp & Jones Steamer
Promenade Hill, without fence

C. H. Evans & Sons Brewery
Edmonds Hose Co., No. 8
Hudson Iron Company

The use of this bridge will save many miles of congested highways, while traveling east or west. Fine new roads connect the bridge with the main arteries of travel; and, for scenic beauty and historical connection, the vicinity is unsurpassed**. . .**

Modern Hudson (in 1935)

. . . In the century and a half from 1785 to 1935, Hudson has taken a long step in population, industry, education, and many other activities.

Hudson, in 1935, with a population of over twelve thousand, covers some three square miles, ranging from sea level to about three hundred feet above. As the county seat, it is a center for all the Columbia County area. With the coming of the modern transportation, the influence of the city has spread over the wide back-country, making more of a focal point in industry and education than it was in early days, when the sloop and horse-drawn vehicle were common sights.

Located at one of the finest spots in the valley, its industrial development has gone forward in many and varied lines. There are at present some twenty manufacturing plants, employing over eighteen hundred people, engaged in producing cement in tow of the largest plants in their line; machinery, tools, and presses, woolen knit goods famous in the country at large, an international brand of ginger ale, matches to light the smokes of many people, ladies' handbags, and the only plant for the manufacture of strip fly paper. The annual combined payroll is about $3,500,000.

The shopping district is about three-quarters of a mile long with a trading radius of some thirty miles, drawing on a population of fifty thousand people.

The early days emphasized schools and educational values, and the modern town has led out with no uncertain step so that today it has five public schools including one high school, one parochial school, and a new half million dollar high school in modern setting, the construction of which is about to commence.

All the leading national fraternal organizations have large representations here. Some twenty-one churches minister to the spiritual needs of the increasing population.

With the opening of the Rip Van Winkle Bridge between Hudson and Catskill new emphasis will be given the city's fine location, and, as back in the early times, the modern city is replete with well kept hotels, where the traveler may find welcome and his human needs supplied.

The City of Hudson boasts about six acres of well kept parks. There are four banks and trust companies whose total deposits are $16,934.618. Two daily newspapers, whose roots go deep into the past, have wide circulation. There are four theatres, one of which is very commodious and modern.

The city has one of the finest motorized volunteer fire departments in the State, and just on the city's edge is the New York State Fireman's Home, while to the south, overlooking what was once the safe anchorage for the old city's shipping industry, is the New York State Training School for Girls, a modern institution in all respects.

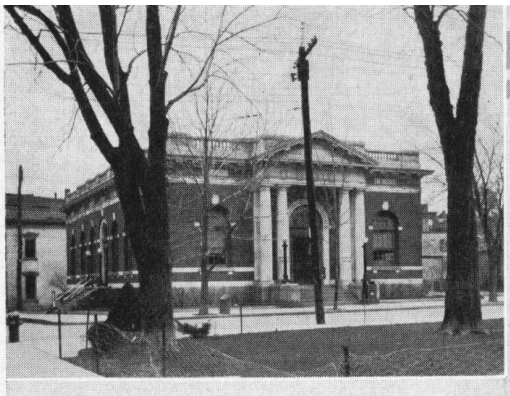
Hudson has an energetic Chamber of Commerce of about two hundred members, eighty-five of whom are the Merchant's Council, all working for a better and larger Hudson.

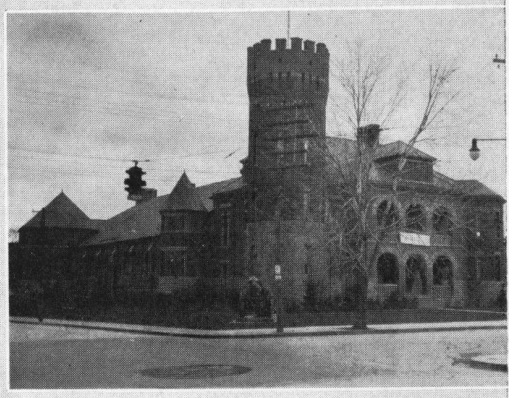
"Horseless Carriages" at Fairgrounds — Gov. Charles E. Hughes at Hudson Fair

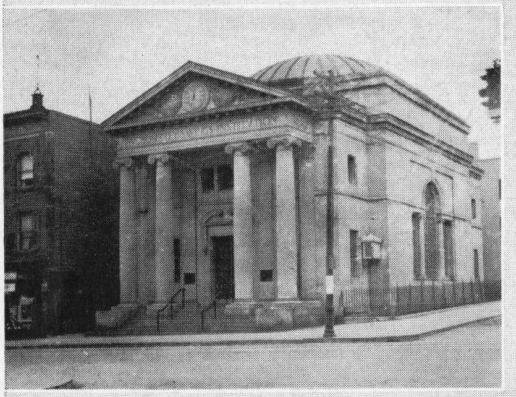
Public Pump, Corner Fifth and Prospect

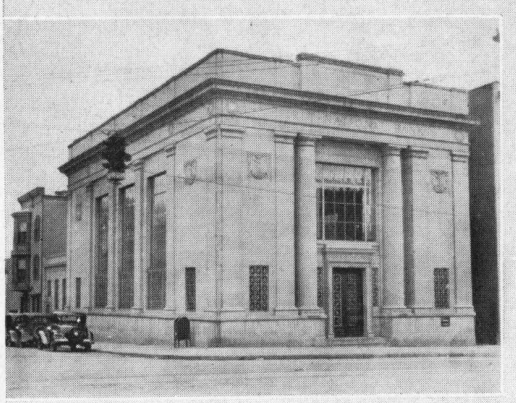
Arch--State Firemen's Convention 1902 — Early Trolley Car

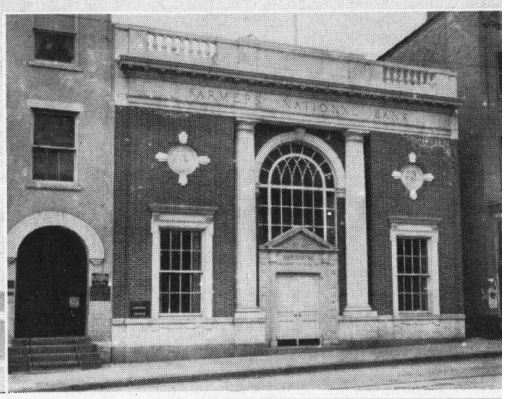
Grandstand—Hudson Fair





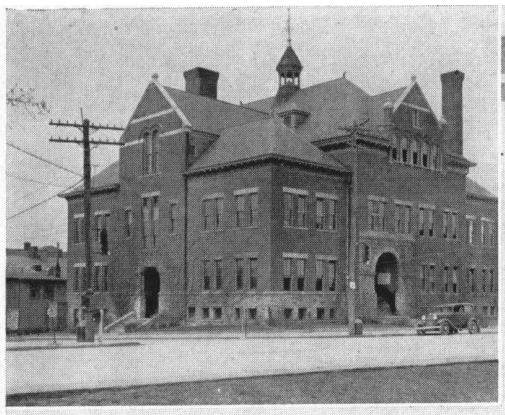


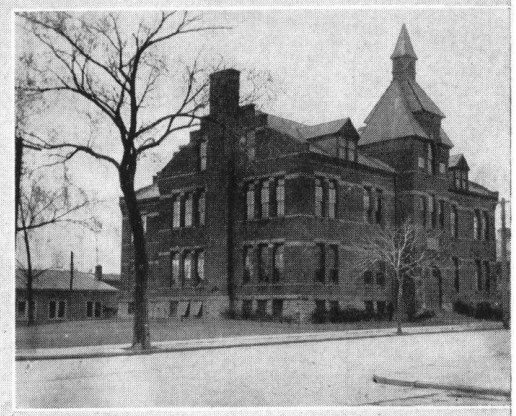


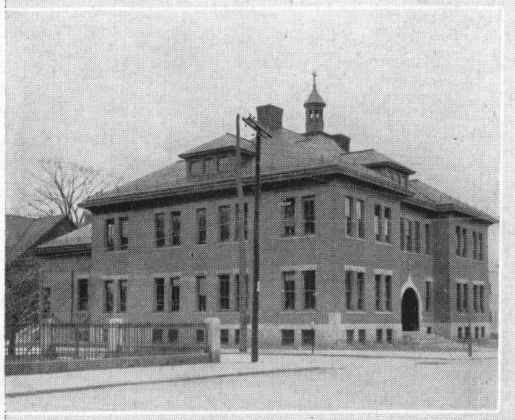


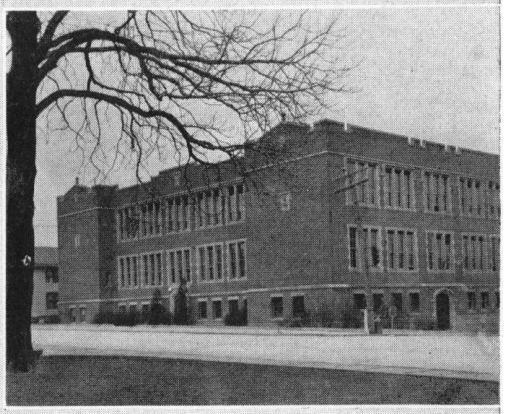
Hudson Post Office
Hudson City Savings Institution
First National Bank and Trust Co.

Hudson Armory
Hudson River Trust Co.
Farmers National Bank



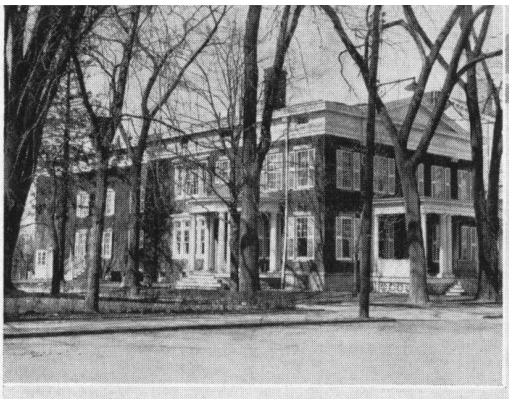


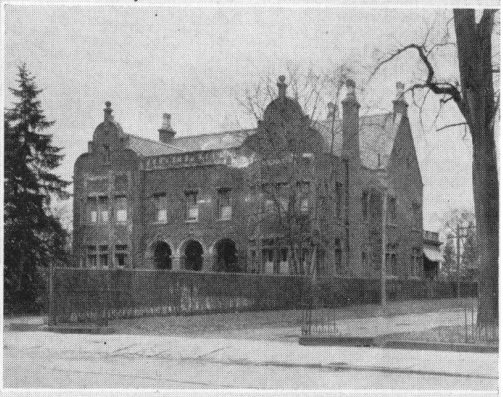




Central Grammar School
St. Mary's Academy
Allen Street School

Sixth Street School
Hudson High School
Williams Memorial School





Home of Mrs. Malcolm Gifford
Home of I. N. Collier
Home of Dr. S. V. Whitbeck

Home of Dr. J. L. Edwards
Home of E. Washburn Scovill
Home of Miss Julia D. Seymour

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The Program Committee wishes to acknowledge its appreciation to all those who have contributed toward the work of compiling the program and especially to Mr. William Wait for the historical sketch; to Mr. Lucius Moore for the cover design; to Mr. Samuel G. Rowles for the use of the old plates; and to Mr. R. O. Bixby for the pictures of the modern scenes.

Designed and Printed by
THE HUDSON PRESS

HISTORICAL PAGEANT
OF HUDSON

A JOHN B. ROGERS PRODUCTION

REHEARSED AND STAGED
UNDER THE DIRECTION
OF WILLIAM K. MARTIN

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY EVENINGS
JULY 5th and 6th, 1935
8:30 P. M.

Courtesy of *The Hudson, NY., Library*.

PROLOGUE

a. Bugle Call

b. Boy Scouts (Guard of Honor)

c. Arrival of Miss Hudson and her attendants—Pride, Strength, Fertility, Patriotism, Peace, Thrift, Liberty and Faith.

d. Address of Welcome:

"Fellow Citizens of Hudson, and of the United States, in the name of the inhabitants of this city and in honor of our celebration this evening, I bid you all a most cordial welcome. Whether you were born within its boundaries, interlacing your affections with those with whom you compose this incorporated Brotherhood, in the great Family of the Union, or whether you are a native of some other town, city or state, and are present to enjoy with us this celebration, in the name of the City of Hudson, I extend to each and all of you the endearing address of Fellow Citizens, and friends, and bid you welcome to this Pageant."

e. Arrival of Miss Columbia and the Forty-Eight States.

f. Miss Columbia Responds:

"Miss Hudson, in the name of the United States, I acknowledge this, your welcome. With pride we recognize in Hudson, one of the brightest gems in the crown of the American achievement of progress. We are happy tonight to receive your welcome to this gathering to the memory and honor of those worthy men and courageous women who here began a life of progress, the direction of which has been FORWARD—may Forward be your watchword and your goal, Perfection."

g. Miss Hudson, Miss Columbia, attendants and the States are escorted to the Court of Honor, where they make their review of the Pageant.

INTERLUDE ONE

PROPHECY OF FATHER TIME

"I came, I know not whence,
I go, I know not whither,
Eyes of things created never
Upon my coming looked, nor shall it see my passing.
First and last of all things—I,
For I am TIME.
Look ye upon the Dawning of Creation
Called Universe;
When out of the chaos, order is brought,
You will see the birth of sky, flowers, lands,
And last—Man—the Red Man."

EPISODE ONE

a. The Dawning of Creation

In the distance ghostlike forms are seen approaching, followed by many beautiful things. They lift their veils and behold, we see the Dawning of Creation—the birth of land, sky, flowers and water—shaped and moulded into a beautiful harmony of movement.

b. The Indian

In the vicinity of the present Hudson, New York, were found the Mohicans who possessed a wide domain. Their council seat was at Schodack ("Esquitak") "The fire-place of the nation." The Mohawks and other Iroquois nations, joined forces and "drove them to the eastern side of the river," and through the years, even to the American Revolution, these tribes were bitter enemies. The Mohicans were overthrown by the Mohawks in the year 1628, by sheer strategy; and in 1736, all that remained of the Mohican tribe, came into the mission of Rev. John S. Sergeant at Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

A village of Indians will be shown in this scene—the squaws and maidens busy planting maize, weaving and dressing skins of wild animals that braves have brought in from their hunts. Old warriors sit about, in contemplative silence. Children play and wrestle. Two or three young braves are busy finishing a canoe. A young maiden and her brave sing—of love.

A runner, panting from exertion, comes into the picture with news that the enemy tribes are coming. Instantly there is a great commotion; shrill war cries rent the air, but before the warriors are ready for defense, their foes swoop down upon them and the little village is the scene of a bloody scrimmage. Many are slain, and the victorious, attacking tribe though somewhat diminished in numbers, celebrate by burning the vanquished lover at the stake.

INTERLUDE TWO

With danger encircling by day and by night,
Here lit the hearth fires, to gleam thru the years,
Clear as a beacon light.

EPISODE TWO

HENRY HUDSON'S SPIRIT

Henry Hudson, Englishman, left Amsterdam on March 25, 1609, in the little vessel "Half Moon" for the Dutch East India Company of Holland to discover for them, if possible, a shorter route to the East and thus increase their facilities for trade." It was not until July 12, that he first saw North America and landed on the 18th, at what is now Penobscot Bay, Maine. He left here July 26, and after various stops, he "anchored in the western channel directly opposite the site of Hudson City,, on September 16, on the stream he called —The Great River of the Mountains." (Hudson River).

From here, with an old Chief of a tribe of Indians, Hudson reached the shore in one of their canoes and was made welcome. He was given food in red wooden bowls (two mats had been spread out for the old Chief and Hudson to sit on) and two Indians were sent out, with bows and arrows, for game. Hudson did not remain for the night, as the Indians thought he might do—and believing him afraid of their bows and arrows, they "broke them in pieces and threw them in the fire."

INTERLUDE THREE

Spirit of the Wilderness in its most playful mood,
With the Powers of the Forest, the Powers of the River,
And the Mist Maidens merrily dancing in the forest.

EPISODE THREE

a. Dance of the Powers

INTERLUDE FOUR

And so they came, into this land,
Adventurers bold on every hand.
The early founders of our race,
The men who took the Red Man's place

EPISODE FOUR

PIONEER DAYS

a. Purchase of Land from the Indians, by Minuet

b. The First Settlers

The Dutch East India Company that had sent Hudson on his exploration, carried on trade with the Indians, and in 1623, formed "The West India Company" for that purpose, bringing over sixty families on the first ship. This Company took possession for Holland, "by right of discovery."

The Dutch had picked a beautiful location on these shores and though the Colonists came slowly the Dutch flag (7 stripes of red, white and blue, one for each province) flew over their territory. Prominent in the early history of this colonization were Director General Peter Minuet who purchased Manhattan Island from the Indians for $24 (60 guilders); Jan Franz Van Hoesan who purchased land from the Mohicans in June, 1662, which included the ground on which the city of Hudson is built—also a portion of Greenport—and in whose family this land has remained for generations; Colonel Van Alden who married one of Van Hoesan's descendants; Killian Van Rensselaer connected with Fort Orange (now Albany). The early settlers engaged in some farming, this being rich land, but mostly in fishing and trading with the Indians. They were people of means, often bringing with them their own servants.

Travel in those days was a problem and between Manhattan Island and Fort Orange, sloops were used and sometimes small boats with Indian rowers. The weather proved an obstacle, however, and finally in 1684, it was decided to use post riders to carry letters and dispatches. Along the post road were inns where the riders rested and changed to fresh horses.

Finally came the stage or mail coach and with it road improvements and larger inns and taverns.

The land of Jan Franz Van Hoesan (purchased in June, 1662, by him, from the Mohicans) being cleared, worked upon and planted, under his supervision. The arrival of a few neighbors at the close of the day, after their work is finished, and the festivities and singing that ensue.

c. The Post Rider

INTERLUDE FIVE

Witness here ye days of old,
Tales of early trials unfold;
How noble the deeds of long ago,
How warm did hearts with fervor glow.
The Pioneers had courage and hope;
Far was their vision and wide their scope.

EPISODE FIVE

IN REVOLUTIONARY DAYS

In 1774, in Albany County was raised a regiment "of from 60 to 100 men to each Company" known as the First Claverack Battalion" that was to take active part in the war of England and the Colonists. These men drilled near the village and on the green in front of the Post Station train bands "marched and counter marched" to the accompaniment of fife and drum.

Among those of "The Landing" who gave their services to their country were Van Hoesans; Hardicks; Esselstyns; Hogebooms; Huycks.

In this scene will be shown Revolutionary soldiers drilling; onlookers; and the excitement and confusion that go hand in hand with patriotism, at such times.

INTERLUDE SIX

And so a town was born to live,
And to this town a name we give—Hudson.

EPISODE SIX

HUDSON IS BORN

a. The Name of Hudson is Chosen—1784

b. The Charter is Granted—1785

There came to Claverack Landing in the spring of 1783, Seth and Thomas Jenkins from Rhode Island, hoping to better themselves in business, and after purchasing a store and wharf lot and some land, they returned for their families, coming back to The Landing that fall, together with John Aslop. In another year, others came from Nantucket, and the Proprietors' Association was formed consisting of no more than thirty members,—merchants or those engaged in "navigating the deep." They elected officers and held meetings; and on November 14, 1784, it was agreed by them that "in future it should be called by the name of Hudson."

We shall show a meeting of these proprietors at which will be represented Seth and Thomas Jenkins, David Lawrence, (Moderator); Reuben Folger, (Clerk); Stephen Paddock; Joseph Barnard; Benjamin Folger; William Hall, Hezekiah Dayton; Titus Morgan; Reuben Macy; Cotton Gelston; John Alsop; Charles Jenkins; Ezra Reed; Gideon Gardner; John Thurston and Nathaniel Greene and their decision to call the town, in the "futur," by the name of Hudson.

In April 1785, Hudson became a city (third in the state) under the Act of Incorporation, which was passed. It was not until May 4, however, that the Charter of the City was brought from New York, by Ezekiel Gilbert, and at the same time, the appointment of Seth Jenkins as the first Mayor, by Governor George Clinton.

INTERLUDE SEVEN

So—Away with care,
Let every heart with quickened fervor glow,
While we brush the dust from by-gone years,
And bid the records show the honored deeds of those who lived
Many years ago.

EPISODE SEVEN

CIVIL WAR DAYS

a. An Old Soldier's Dream
b. A Wedding
c. The Call to Arms
d. The Angel of Peace

In years gone by, friends and relatives of a young couple who was to be married, came to the ceremony and in various modes of conveyance, but come they did, whether walking, by horseback, in wagons or in stage coaches.

In this episode will be shown guests arriving in holiday attire and happy mood, to witness the ceremony after which there will be dancing and drinking of toasts to the bride and groom who leave, amid the confusion, by stage coach.

The call for troops for the Civil War, of volunteers, was issued on July 23, 1862, by John V. Whitbeck, Granville P. Hawes and Edward Gifford of Hudson. Company A ranks were soon filled and others recruited. These were part of the 128th Regiment commanded by Colonel David S. Cowles. The regiment was located at "Camp Kelly" where many visitors came daily. On August 30, a stand of colors was presented to them by the women of Hudson and in September, that same year, the regiment left for Baltimore. Besides the 128th Regiment (for which Hudson gave four companies), a full company for the 14th, and many to the 159th were recruited. Many enlisted in the Regiments of Calvary and in the regular navy and army.

INTERLUDE EIGHT

Now that the Book of Records is closed,
And in it the deeds of Old repose,
Let us then turn to our enlightened age,
And see the wonders of Today's beauties displayed.
I've seen the Birth of Man, seen how thru strife
And strain and struggle, Man hath doffed the Brute
And donned the Human. How with trial and tears Man rises
Still, and learns that he is SOUL—I,
For I am Time.

EPISODE EIGHT

MASQUE OF THE NATIONS

This spectacular episode symbolizes the growth and spirit of America—the melting pot of nations where peoples from all corners of the earth are united by patriotism.

Dances, appropriately garbed and with characteristic dances will be presented—from the smallest to the greatest—AMERICA.

a. Girl Scouts
b. Boy Scouts
c. Miss Hudson, Miss Columbia, Attendants and States
d. Irish Girls
e. Dutch Girls
f. English and Belgian Girls
g. French Girls
h. Chinese and Japanese Girls
i. Italian Girls
j. Jackies
k. U. S. A. Girls
l. The Melting Pot
m. Star Spangled Banner

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Miss Hudson ..... Miss Helen Miller
Miss Columbia .....Miss Catherine Ann Heermance

ATTENDANTS

Miss Janice Best
Miss Anna Barco
Miss Helen Brinck
Miss Perry Papp
Miss Bernice Coons
Miss Florence Elting
Miss Marguerite Hamm
Miss Katherine Bogarski

STATES

Miss Emily Piester
Mrs. Mabel Larson
Mrs. Madge Euiler
Mrs. Catherine Platner
Mrs. Chester Storms
Mrs. Martin Propst
Miss Alice K. Nerny
Mrs. Nellie Hawver
Mrs. Jennie Bouer
Mrs. Katherine Gohl
Miss Hilda Bugel
Miss Ann Wildermuth
Miss Clara Teator
Miss Martha Snyder
Mrs. John Gohl
Miss Shirley Clark
Mrs. Werner Kirchhofer
Mrs. Paul Page
Mrs. Frank Alger
Miss Katherine Ganzenmuller
Miss Dorothy Putnam
Mrs. Wesley Martin
Miss Gertrude Macy
Miss Gertrude Hofem
Miss Cora Macy
Mrs. Mattie S. H. Tinker
Mrs. Marion Lynk
Miss Hazel Weaver
Mrs. Marion J. Remy
Mrs. Florence B. Sheldon
Mrs. Walter Kirchhofer
Mrs. Lillian Johns
Mrs. Harry J. Sagendorph
Mrs. Ethel Rivenburgh
Miss Carolyn Pacanda
Mrs. Lela Flick
Miss Amy Draffin
Miss Viola Belcher
Miss Dorothy Rosenthal
Mrs. H. Stein
Miss Joan Clark
Miss Jane Mills
Miss Virginia Garrison

BOY SCOUTS

Solly Stern
Franklin Law
Tony Pittinichi
Bernard Berg
Harold Glickman
Lambros Markessinis
Michael Rossi
Irving Solomon
Warren Hawver
Morton Sitvarin
Sherwood Frezon
Verner Miller
Albert Potts
Roger Ackerman
Donald McLaren
Werter Van Deusen
Robert Van Etten
Morris Lerner
Jacob Zimmerman
Erving Sitvarin
Phillip Segal
Manuel Hendler
Jeronie Stepner
Benbert Pheel
Chester Kiel
Jerome Cersten
Paul Thorn
William Niver
Eric Mitchinson
Jimmie Thornton
M. Pearlamon
Harry Dingman

CREATION BALLET

Stella Baretsky
Mary Weeks
Bertha Hess
Nellie Fino
Lillian Solomon
Olga LeSawyer
Marie Grab
Margaret O'Brien
Sylvia Sitvarin
Betty Macy
Judy Roth
Marguerite Hamm
Virginia Witham
Muriel Benson
Norma Schnack
Isabelle Zimmiewicz
Stella Romonyk
Pauline Turock
Eunice Kisselburgh
Mary Lou Thorn
Ellen Best
Rosanne Herron
Julia McCoy
Helen Raynor
Shirley Savitsky
Marguerite Pearsall
Hazel Hahl
Etta Hermance

INDIANS

Indian Love Call: Elizabeth Donnley and Harry Bannister

Lillian Farris	Douglas Van Etten	Werner Kirchhofer
Faith Bennett	Isador Perry	Clifford Graham
Mrs. John Stenger	Clarence Platner	Arthur Hood
Pauline Walch	Nelson Marcn	Malcolm Wise
Mrs. Eva Hermance	Horton Gardner	Kenneth Walsh
Delia Petterson	LeRoy Teator	Joseph Martin
Emma Van Tassel	John Flick	William Trowbridge
Kathren Krebor	Berguss Conley	Arthur Spath
Marion Neefus	Nick Cariseo	John L. Stenger
Max Cross	Kenneth Mynter	Boyd Draffin, Jr.
Thomas Malley	David Bartholomew	James Dingman

Henry Hudson ..... James Dingman

POWERS BALLET

Margaret Miller	Marion Snyder	Lena Cimmino
Elizabeth Smodish	Mary Smith	Sophie Mikos
Dorothy Whitaker	Florence Ginsburg	Anna Ban
Muriel Steerey	Eva Urban	Margaret Walsh
Mary Firsth	Miriam Roehm	Mary Whitaker
Rachel Main	Catherine O'Brien	Dorothy Nedoska
Emma Miller	Catherine Storms	Betty Belknap
Margaret Kelley	Helen Primsky	

Minuet ..... Parker Rockefeller

THE FIRST SETTLERS

Mr. Benjamin Kline	Mr. Parker Rockefeller	Mrs. Stebner
Mr. Conrad Kiel	Mrs. B. Kline	Mrs. John Piester
Mr. Clifford Whitbeck	Mrs. George Becker	Mrs. Parker Rockefeller
Mr. Harvey Whitbeck	Mrs. Conrad Kiel	Mr. R. A. Stebner
Mr. Grant Sheldon	Mrs. Clifford Whitbeck	Mrs. Emma Foster
Mr. John Ham	Mrs. Wesley Carl	Children
Mr. M. Ham	Mrs. Grant Sheldon	Clifford Whitbeck
Mr. J. Foster	Mrs. John Ham	Edna Whitbeck
Mr. Clifford Kiel	Irene Piester	Caroline Stebner
Mr. John Sheldon	Ella Carl	Calvin Kiel

REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS

Leland Friss	Charles Markowitz	Edward Rossi
Claud Hawver	William Pauzar	Romeo Rossi
Reuben Risch	Leland Plass	Charles Jenkins
Ralph Risch	Joseph Pierro	Theodore Gritman
Charles Wright	David Gagliardi	Lawrence Ostrander
William Coons	Stanley Roy	Louis Conte
Abram Schunk	Robert Gentile	

REVOLUTIONARY TOWNSPEOPLE

Leonard Sweet	Harry Sagendorph	Mrs. Wesley Carl
Iderman Stein	Clinton Winters	Mrs. Grant Sheldon
Kenneth Coons	James Marshall	Mrs. John Ham
Arthur Van Bramer	Walter Oakes	Irene Piester
Henry Weaver	William Smith	Ella Carl
J. Boyd Draffin	Ward McDarby	Mrs. Stebner
Walter Washburn	Mrs. B. Kline	Mrs. John Piester
Jacob Young	Mrs. George Becker	Mrs. Parker Rockefeller
Carlton Roosa	Mrs. Conrad Kiel	Mrs. Emma Foster
Fred Coon	Mrs. Clifford Whitbeck	

HUDSON FOREFATHERS

Leonard Sweet
Iderman Stein
Kenneth Coons
Arthur Van Bramer
Henry Weaver
J. Boyd Draffin
Walter Washburn
Jacob Young
Carlton Roosa
Fred Coon
Harry Sagendorph
Clinton Winters
James Marshall
Walter Oakes
William Smith
Ward McDarby

CIVIL WAR DAYS

The Old Soldier ..... Thomas Gallager
The Bride ..... Mary Lou Thorn
The Groom ..... Ralph Thorn, Jr.
The Minister ..... Rev. Ralph Thorn
The Father ..... George Van Etten
The Singer ..... Mrs. Clifford Holsapple
The Confederate Soldier ..... Ruben Willmot

THE GUESTS

Charles Miller
George Plass
John Addley
Ronald Mitchinson
Charles Hildreth
Beekman Platner
Clifford Graham
Harold Betz
Rose Mary Monthie
Alice Hennessy
Sally Traver
Patsy Blair
Betty O'Neil
Margaret Fabiano
Lucy Poppiti
Norma Swayze

GIRL SCOUTS

Gertrude Sipperly
Betty Kipnes
Vera Podarozni
Doris Thorn
Marvis Sobel
Elsie Parson
Jean Nivinpson
Rosemarine Molone
Vivian Rossman
Ellen Keil
Miriam Herron
Juan Sherman
Doris Isaacsons
Jaici Ericson
Madeline Howley
Dorothy Van Etten
Louise Macy
Mary Jane Thompson
Margaret Sullivan
Leona Merrit
Marjorie Hirrick
Vivian Brothers
Alice Sanford
Helen Oakes
Dorothy Van Deusen
Beulah Merritt
Jean Harder
Betty Sherman
Ann Van Deusen
Marjorie Coll
Mary Elizabeth Weinman

IRISH GIRLS

Ruth Bass
Margaret Werner
Pearl Knott
Rose Finney
Alice Drowbroski
Evelyn Smith

DUTCH GIRLS

Rachel Main
Mary Whitaker
Dorothy Whitaker
Muriel Steerey
Alice Bannister
Jane McCarthy

ENGLISH GIRLS

Frances Szlachetka
Stella Romanyk
Elizabeth Kozub
Julia McCoy
Catherine Medwict
Frances Shook
Nancy Patrie
Judy Roth

BELGIAN GIRLS

Marie Whittaker
Helen Miller
Helen Ziemba
Helen Medeck
Alice Van Tassel
Mary St. Cyr
Florence Ginsberg
Florence Bot

FRENCH GIRLS

Lucy Battistello
Zelma Race
Ingrid Thompson
Mabel Walsh
Elaine Propst
Agnes Proper
Alice Garvansites
Patricia Baldes

CHINESE AND JAPANESE GIRLS

Phylis Bernberg
Julia Nitsky
Elvina Pratts
Mary Boldizar
Mary DeCaprio
Helen Albright
Hilda Plass
Anna Nartowicz
Sue Halloran
Dorothy Nartowicz
Frances Meiner
Mary Pratts

ITALIAN GIRLS

Grace Cole
Anna Firenze
Beatrice Ginsburg
Amelia Kasnowsky
Mary Abitabile
Miriam Cohen

JACKIES

Stella Baretsky
Shirley Savitsky
Lillian Solomon
Hazel Hahl
Pauline Turock
Marie Grab
Olga LeSawyer
Margaret Miller
Betty Macy
Dorothy Hutching
Mildred Meicht
Betty Gohl
Dorothy Hawver
Murial Dwyer
Mary Negro
Doris Genzmer

U. S. A. GIRLS

Betty Miske
Beatrice Benson
Norma Seamon
Roseline Cukerstein
Anna Pratts
Bertha Lubera
Dorothy Brier
Barbara Sack
Ella Kohn
Ruth Loich
Gertrude Blake
Maria Russo
Anna Celelli
Virginia Wilt
Doris Rossman
Doris White
Mary Jane Wrigley
Marion Vasilow
Alice Harpies
Virginia Snyder
Dorothy Sanford
Anna Halloran
Helen Levitsky
Rosa Nero

THE CHOIR

(Under Direction of Gerald Bliss)

Mrs. Pauline Avery
Gladys M. Bannister
Mildred Bergeron
Gertrude M. Browning
Ruth Christiana
Dorothy Churchill
Joan Clark
Shirley Clark
Hazel M. Clayton
Hope Coons
Elizabeth A. Donnelly
Mrs. W. G. Erickson
Ruth L. Fleahman
Mrs. Robert Frost
Mrs. Myron Funk
Muriel S. Gardner
Mary Haith
Mrs. William Hallenbeck
Mrs. Enos Ham
Mrs. Nora Hawkins
Bessie Holsapple
Mrs. Clifford Holsapple
Olive C. Kittell
Mrs. Royden Lasher
Mrs. Ella Lorenz
Mrs. James McKeever
Margaret Miller
Mrs. Orland Moore
Catherine Moritz
Mildred A. Moss
Mrs. K. T. Orley
Mrs. Willard Perlee
Mrs. Frederick Pierce
Mrs. Harry Prilliper
Mrs. Vera Raynor
Mrs. Benedict Spath
Mrs. John Stevens
Mrs. Leslie Stile
Mrs. Ralph S. Thorn

Mrs. Bessie Williams
Marie Wohn
Lillian Wyant
Walter Abbott
Harry J. Bannister
Charles H. Churchill
Grant Eitleman
Harry Ganzenmuller
James Grissom
Raymond Hallenbeck
Warren Hammerle
Edward Hermance
Myron Hermance
Clifford Howard
William E. Kline
Royden Lasher
William J. McCune
John Murphy
Geoffrey Overton
Gustave Rapp
William E. Ridgeway
Joseph Shove
Frank Stenger
Lawrence Stenger
Werter Van Deusen
John H. Vickers
Douglas Washburn
Edgar Washburn
J. K. Casey

THE BAND

(Under Direction of Gerald Bliss)

James Atkins
Raymond Balch
Peter Baretsky
Louis Best
William Brooks
Augustine Costa
Eugene Davis
Edward Gardner
Henry Haight
Leslie Haight
George Hickey
Edward Howatt
Louis Iaccino
Eli Isenhart
Jacob Isenhart
Edward Jaquins
Steven Kardos
John Loos
Benjamin Martin
Wilfred Mitchinson
George Mullett
Paul Phillip
Floyd Snyder
John Starks, Sr.
John Starks, Jr.
Cyrus Vincent
Bradford Wager
James White
Fred Wilbur

PARTICIPATING GROUPS

Boy Scouts of America
Claverack Grange
Company M—10th Infantry
Girl Scouts of America
Independent Order Odd Fellows
Mt. Merino Chapter, Eastern Star
Pocahontas
Red Men

Any ommissions or errors in the names of the Pageant Cast are due to changes made after the Programme went to press.

APPRECIATION

The Sesquicentennial Committee and the Pageant Master for the John B. Rogers Producing Co., desire to graciously thank all members of the Pageant cast who so cheerfully and willingly gave their time and energy in rehearsals and to all others who helped in any way on the Pageant.

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WILLIAM E. KLINE,

Chairman.

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Sponsors of this Historical Pageant in connection with our Sesquicentennial has, does now, and will continue to look forward and undertake those things which are for the best interest of

HUDSON

And follow the high standards and fair dealings defined by the Seal, and characterized by the founders of our city generations ago . . . .

Correct in Weight and Measure

or Honor and Reward of Righteousness

The Hudson Chamber of Commerce needs, and expects the loyal support of all Hudsonians—the same kind of support that is making Hudson's 150th Anniversary Celebration a marked success.